

ADVENTURES
in WONDERLAND

ADVENTURES

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

10¢

in



Wonderland

OCT. NO. 4

LEV GLEASON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER



AHOY, MATES!
WONDERLAND
AHEAD!

AN
ILLUSTRATED
STORY
BY
Myra Hess



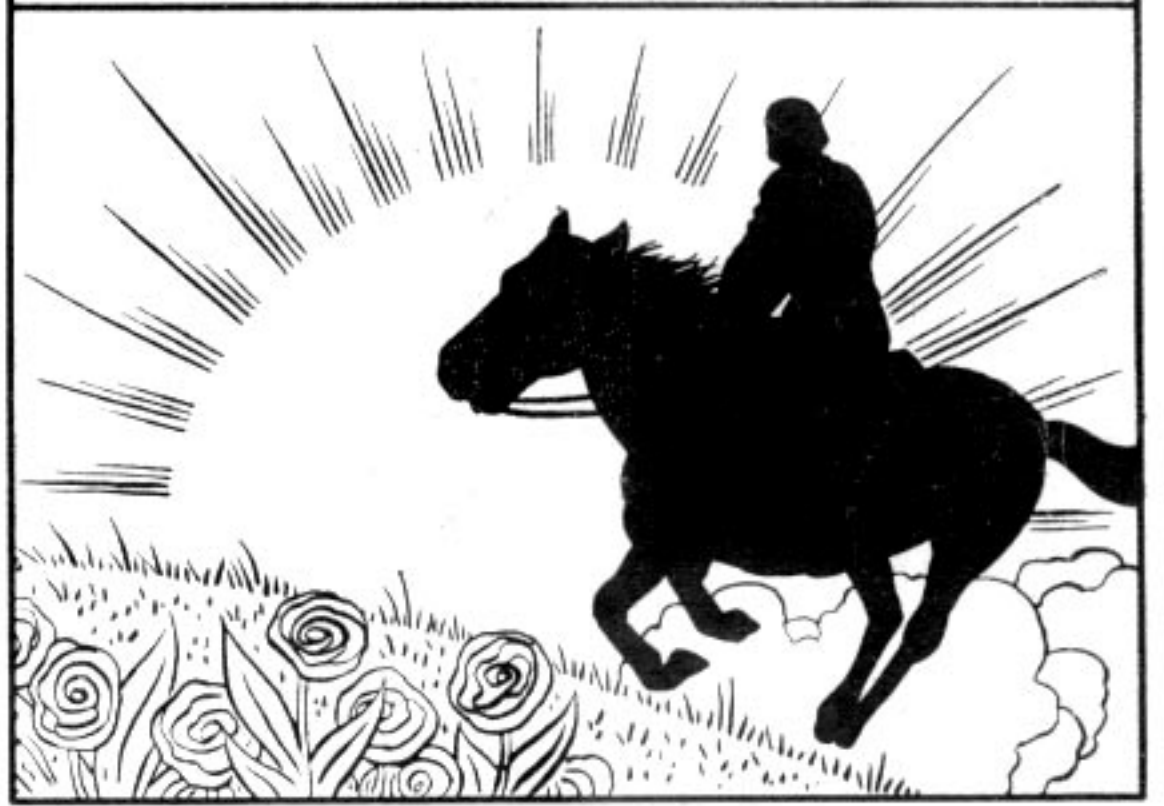
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BY ORDER OF THE QUEEN

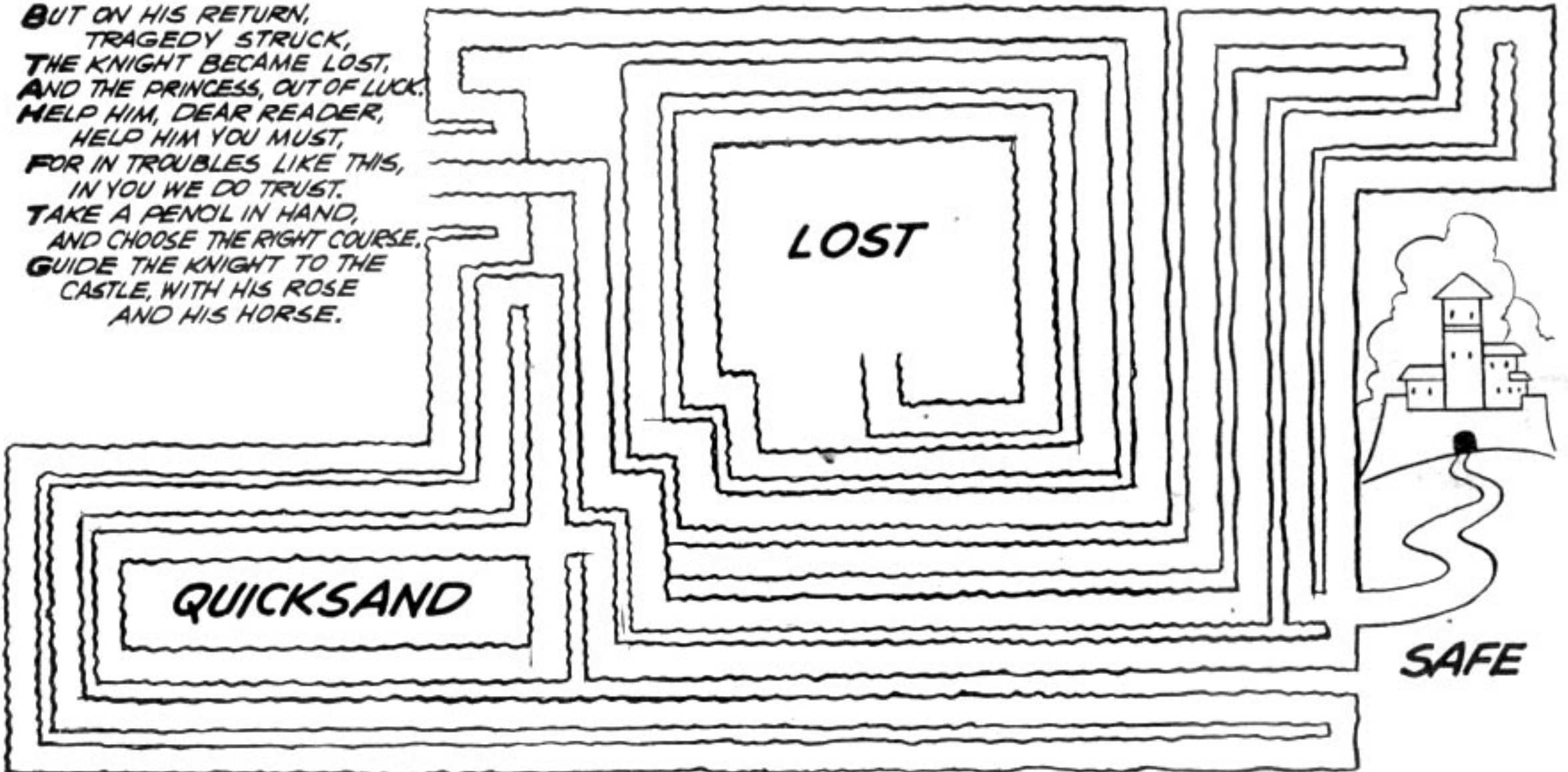
THE PRINCESS WAS ILL IN BODY AND MIND,
SO THE QUEEN ORDERED A KNIGHT, A CURE TO FIND.



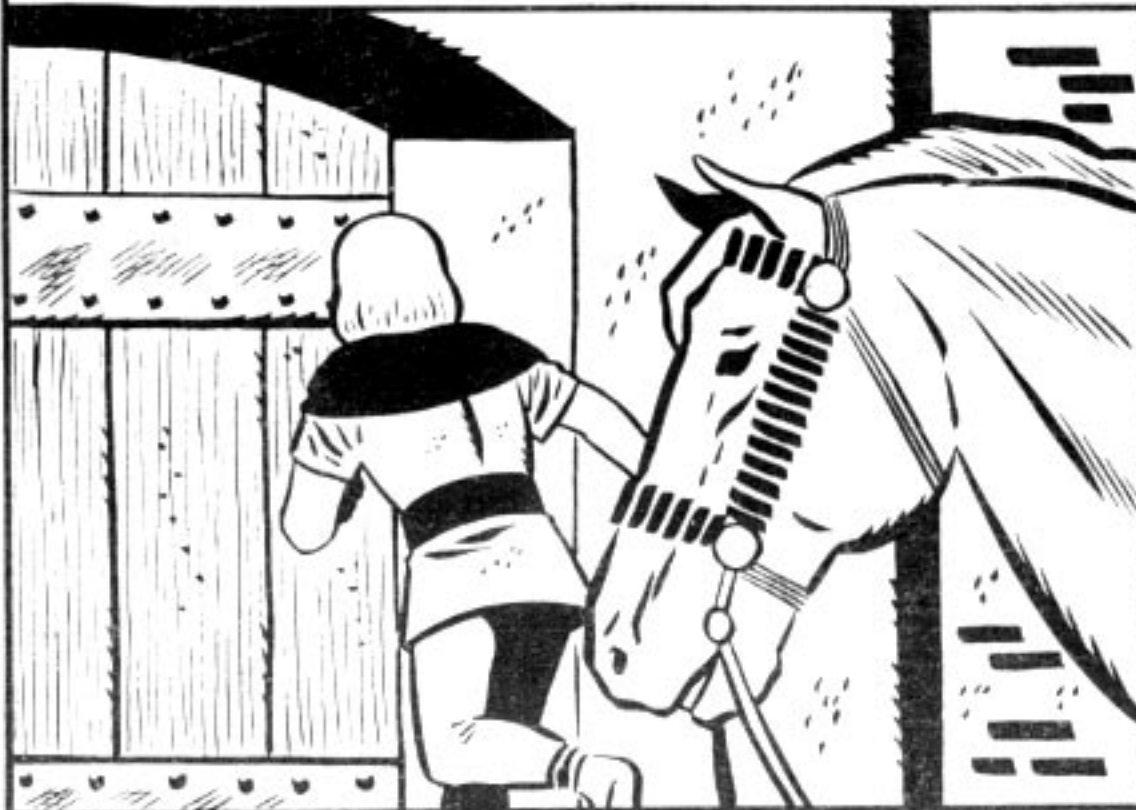
THE BRAVE KNIGHT VENTURED TO WHERE THE
MAGIC ROSES GREW,
NOW HE COULD SAVE THE PRINCESS, THE ROSES
HE WOULD BREW.



BUT ON HIS RETURN,
TRAGEDY STRUCK,
THE KNIGHT BECAME LOST,
AND THE PRINCESS, OUT OF LUCK.
HELP HIM, DEAR READER,
HELP HIM YOU MUST,
FOR IN TROUBLES LIKE THIS,
IN YOU WE DO TRUST.
TAKE A PENCIL IN HAND,
AND CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE.
GUIDE THE KNIGHT TO THE
CASTLE, WITH HIS ROSE
AND HIS HORSE.



THANK YOU DEAR READER, YOU WERE HELPFUL
INDEED.
FOR YOU'VE DELIVERED THE ROSE, THE KNIGHT,
AND HIS STEED.



THE PRINCESS, DRANK OF THE BREW, AND HER
HEALTH WAS REGAINED.
LATER, SHE MARRIED THE BRAVE KNIGHT, AND
TOGETHER THEY REIGNED.



In the olden time, when wishing was having... there lived a king, whose daughter was so exceedingly beautiful, that the sun himself, although he saw her very often, was surprised whenever she came out into the sunshine! Come along with us now to Wonderland... that magical place where anything is possible! Our first stop will be the fabulous city of Bagdad, where you will meet Armand and...

His SLEEPING PRINCESS



LOOK, OLD MAN! THERE IT IS! THE CASTLE ON THE TOP OF THE WORLD! WE MUST MAKE HASTE TO SAVE THE PRINCESS FROM THE EVIL VIZIER!



ONCE UPON A TIME, MANY MOONS AGO, THERE DWELT NEAR A LARGE WOOD A POOR WIDOW WITH HER SON NAMED ARMAND. THEY WERE BURDENED WITH DEBT AND LIVED IN POVERTY. THOUGH THEY HAD LITTLE ENOUGH BREAD TO BREAK OR BITE, ARMAND WAS STILL HAPPY!

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US, ARMAND? THERE IS NO MORE FOOD IN THE HOUSE!

WORRY NOT, MOTHER! I WILL GO OUT INTO THE FOREST AND CHOP SOME WOOD TO SELL!



ARMAND WANDERED INTO THE FOREST WHERE HE KNEW HE WOULD FIND THE FINEST WOOD. HE HAD FINISHED CHOPPING AND WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN...

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? AND WHOSE VOICE CRIED OUT?

H-HELP!



ARMAND FOLLOWED THE VOICE AND SURE ENOUGH, HE SOON REACHED A POND WHERE AN OLD MAN WAS TRAPPED IN THE BOG...

BOY! SAVE ME! I AM SINKING INTO THIS MUD!

BE CALM, OLD MAN! YOU WILL BE ALL RIGHT! I WILL GET A STOUT STICK!



I HAVE A FIRM HOLD NOW!

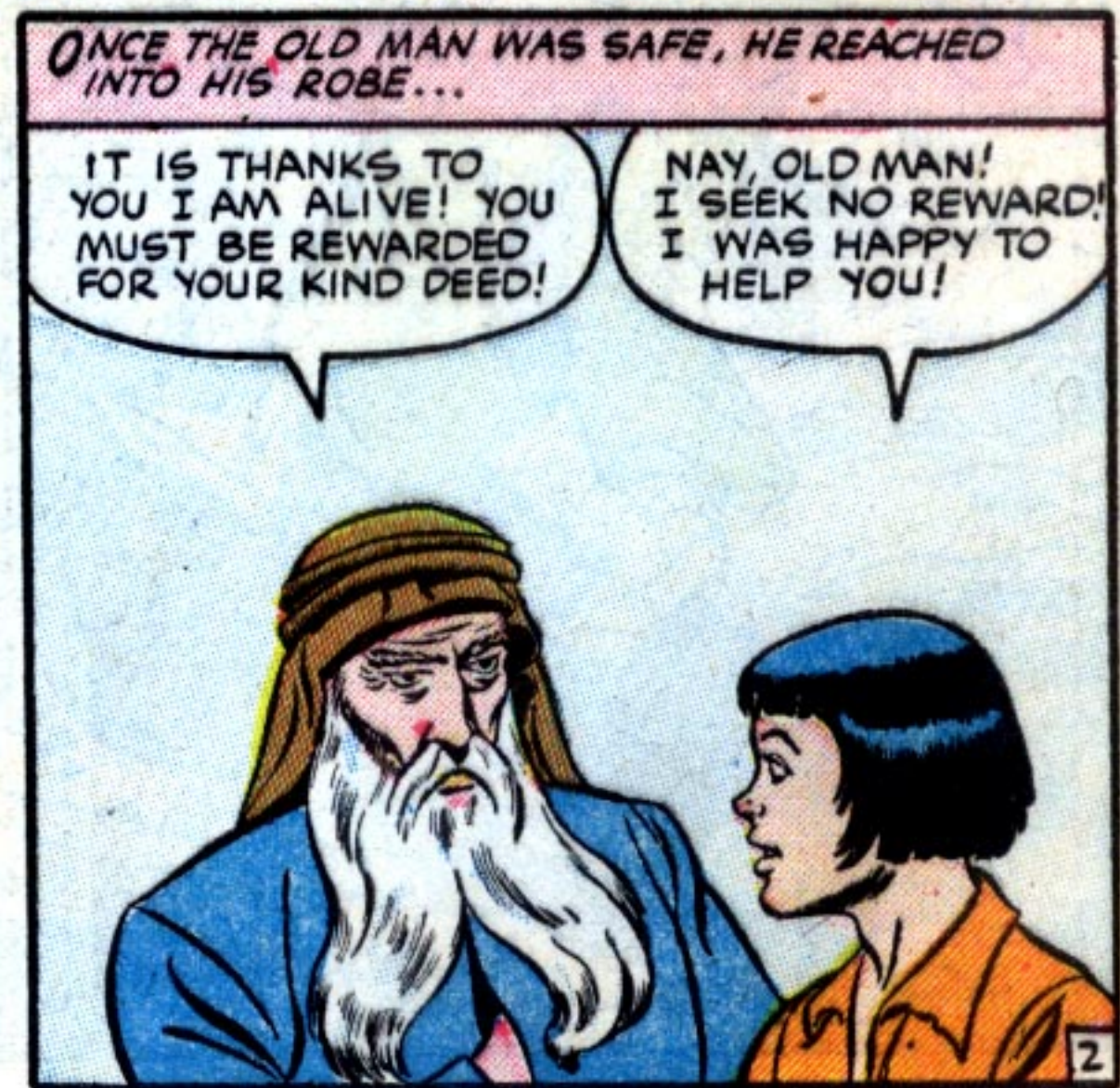
PERMIT ME TO PULL YOU OUT THEN, SIR!



ONCE THE OLD MAN WAS SAFE, HE REACHED INTO HIS ROBE...

IT IS THANKS TO YOU I AM ALIVE! YOU MUST BE REWARDED FOR YOUR KIND DEED!

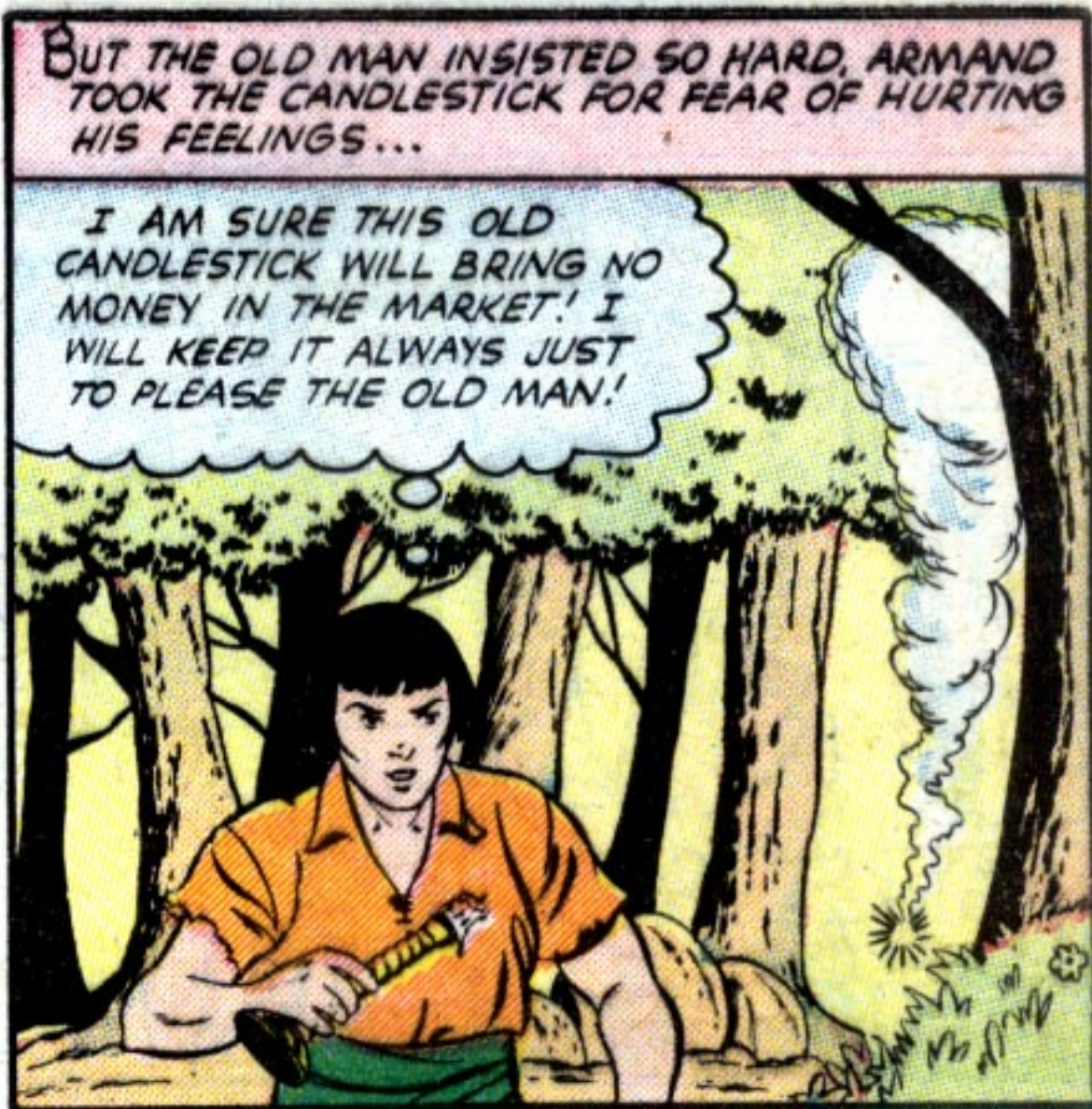
NAY, OLD MAN! I SEEK NO REWARD! I WAS HAPPY TO HELP YOU!





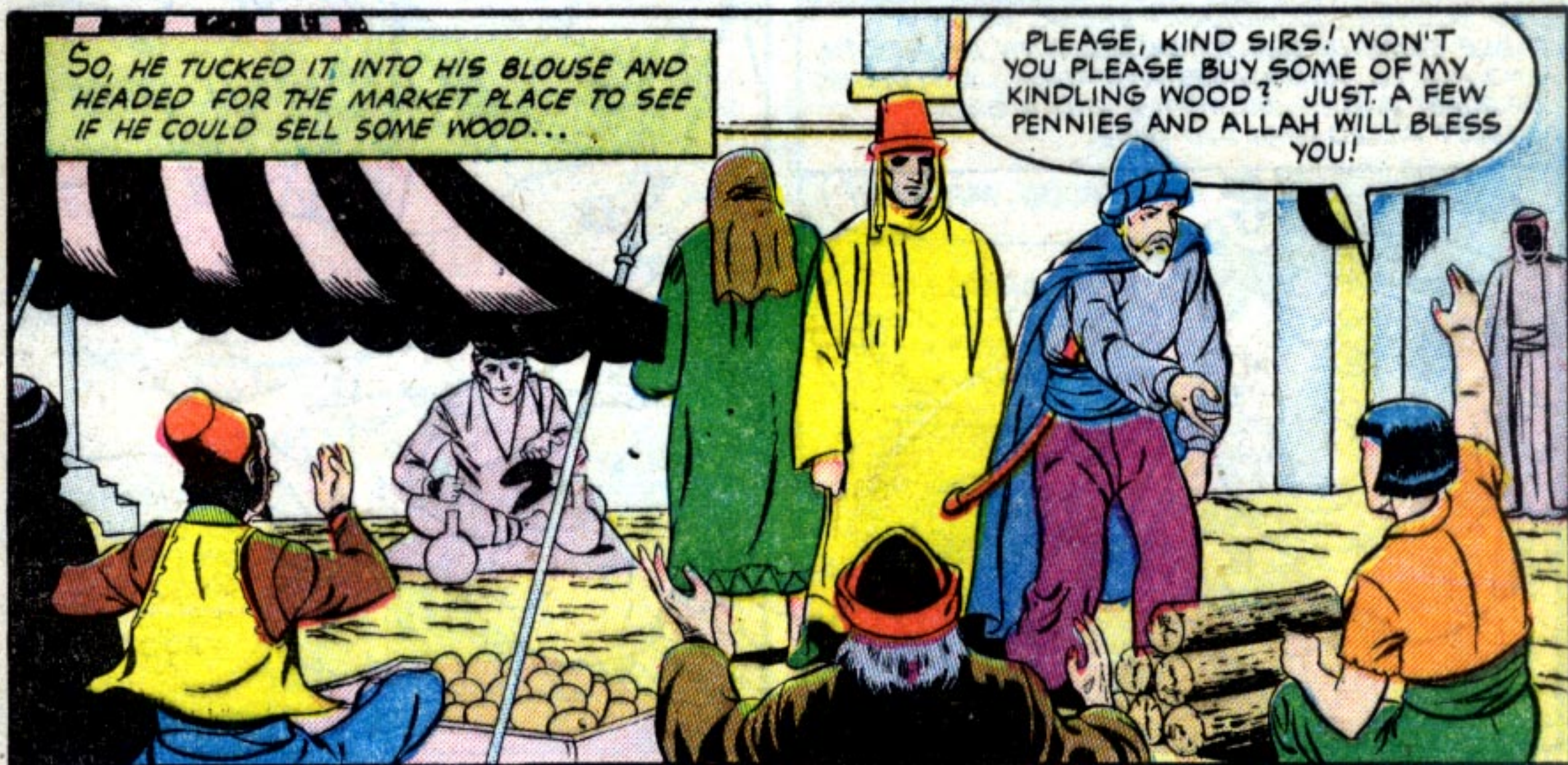
NEVERTHELESS, I MUST SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE! HERE YOU ARE, THIS CANDLESTICK! IT'S YOURS!

BUT REALLY, SIR! 'TIS NO NEED TO PAY ME!



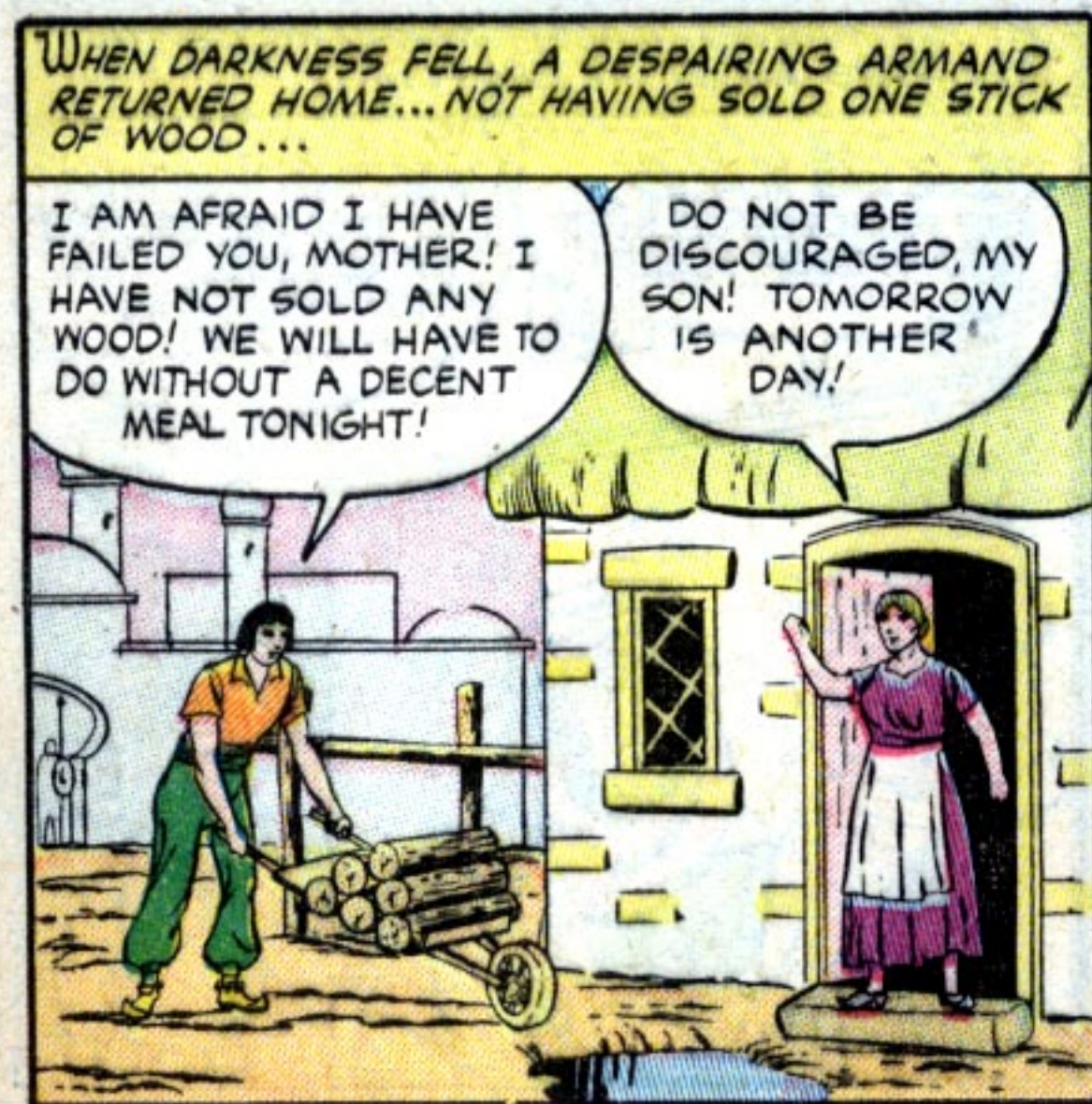
BUT THE OLD MAN INSISTED SO HARD, ARMAND TOOK THE CANDLESTICK FOR FEAR OF HURTING HIS FEELINGS...

I AM SURE THIS OLD CANDLESTICK WILL BRING NO MONEY IN THE MARKET! I WILL KEEP IT ALWAYS JUST TO PLEASE THE OLD MAN!



SO, HE TUCKED IT INTO HIS BLOUSE AND HEADED FOR THE MARKET PLACE TO SEE IF HE COULD SELL SOME WOOD...

PLEASE, KIND SIR! WON'T YOU PLEASE BUY SOME OF MY KINDLING WOOD? JUST A FEW PENNIES AND ALLAH WILL BLESS YOU!



WHEN DARKNESS FELL, A DESPAIRING ARMAND RETURNED HOME... NOT HAVING SOLD ONE STICK OF WOOD...

I AM AFRAID I HAVE FAILED YOU, MOTHER! I HAVE NOT SOLD ANY WOOD! WE WILL HAVE TO DO WITHOUT A DECENT MEAL TONIGHT!

DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED, MY SON! TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY!



BREAD AND WATER FOR SUPPER - AGAIN!

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE THIS, ARMAND! BUT IF YOU DO NOT SELL ANY WOOD TOMORROW, WE WILL SURELY PERISH!

THAT NIGHT ALONE IN HIS LITTLE ROOM, ARMAND REMEMBERED THE CANDLESTICK THE OLD MAN GAVE HIM...

AT LEAST I CAN HAVE SOME LIGHT TO READ BY!



SCARCELY HAD HE SAID THE WORDS WHEN HE HEARD A RUMBLING! THE CANDLESTICK STARTED TO GLOW WITH A GOLDEN LIGHT AND SUDDENLY... A TREMENDOUS GENIE APPEARED, FILLING THE SMALL ROOM WITH HIS PRESENCE...

YOU HAVE SUMMONED THE GENIE OF THE CANDLESTICK! MASTER... YOUR EVERY WISH IS MY COMMAND!



IF THAT IS SO, GENIE... THEN MY FIRST COMMAND IS... BRING ME FOOD!

NO SOONER DID ARMAND SPEAK, WHEN A TABLE CAME IN SIGHT COVERED WITH FINE CLOTH, AND PLATES, AND KNIVES AND FORKS, AND DISHES OF ROAST AND BAKED MEATS, AND A GREAT GOBLET FILLED WITH RED WINE...

YOUR FOOD, MASTER!

NOW... BRING ME CLOTHES OF GOLDEN CLOTH, JEWELS, MONEY AND A NEW HOUSE!



IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR OUR ARMAND TO BECOME A VERY WEALTHY MAN! BUT WITH ALL HIS GOOD FORTUNE, HE DID NOT FORGET THE POOR!

WHERE DO YOU GO WITH THE GOLD PURSES, MY SON?

TO THE MARKET PLACE! THERE MIGHT BE SOME POOR SOUL WHO NEEDS MY HELP!



AT THE MARKET PLACE, ARMAND ACCIDENTALLY OVERHEARS ABOUT AN EVIL PLOT...

...AND THE KING'S VIZIER HAS PLACED THE PRINCESS CELESTE INTO A DEEP SLEEP!

I HEAR HE IS FORCING THE KING TO TAX THE PEOPLE MERCILESSLY... OR THE PRINCESS WILL DIE!



ARMAND RUSHES HOME TO SUMMON HIS GENIE...

GO TO THE ROYAL PALACE, AWAKEN THE PRINCESS CELESTE AND BRING HER TO ME!

IT SHALL BE DONE, MASTER!

BEFORE YOU COULD SNAP YOUR FINGERS, PRINCESS CELESTE WAS IN ARMAND'S HOUSE! HE HAD NEVER SEEN SO BEAUTIFUL AND GRACIOUS A LADY! INSTANTLY HE FELL IN LOVE...

OHHH... WHERE AM I?

I AM ARMAND... YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANT! I HAVE SAVED YOU FROM THE EVIL SPELL OF THE GRAND VIZIER! NOW WE MUST GO TO YOUR FATHER, THE KING, TO TELL HIM YOU ARE SAFE!

AT THE PALACE, THE KING AND HIS EVIL VIZIER ARE SURPRISED TO SEE THE PRINCESS AND HER RESCUER...

THE SPELL IS BROKEN, YOUR MAJESTY! I RETURN YOUR DAUGHTER TO YOU, SAFE AND SOUND!

YOU... YOU... I'LL HAVE YOUR LIFE FOR THIS! YOU WRETCH! I'LL...

SO MY DAUGHTER IS ALIVE AND WELL! BOY, YOU HAVE A MAGIC GREATER THAN THAT OF THE GRAND VIZIER! GUARDS! SEIZE HIM!

THE SORCERER IS THROWN INTO THE CASTLE DUNGEON, BUT THAT DOES NOT END HIS WICKEDNESS FOR HE CONJURES UP A SPELL...

BARS OF IRON... MELT TO WAX AND LET ME PASS THROUGH! I, THE GRAND VIZIER COMMAND THIS OF YOU!

BACK IN THE PALACE, A GUARD SUDDENLY GIVES THE ALARM...

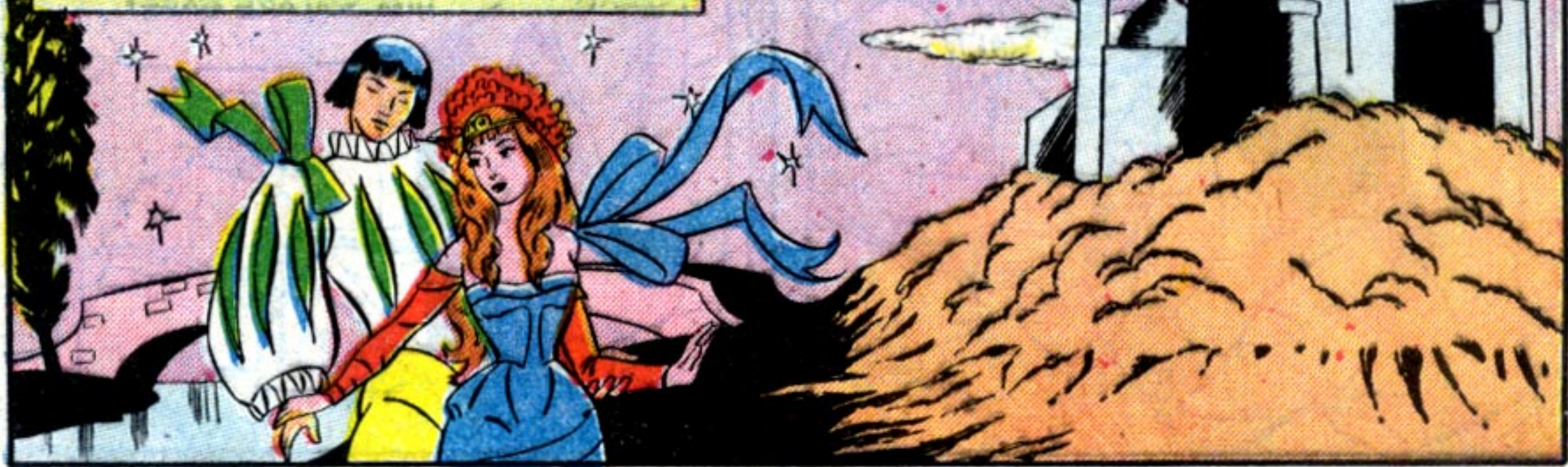
LOCK ALL THE GATES! THE VIZIER HAS ESCAPED HIS CELL!

HE HAS FLED THE KINGDOM BY NOW! BUT WE WILL KEEP SEARCHING! WE HAVE PROBABLY SEEN THE LAST OF THE GRAND VIZIER!

I HOPE YOUR MEN WILL FIND HIM! I FEAR HE WILL STIR UP MORE TROUBLE IF HE IS ALLOWED TO ROAM FREE!

YOU ARE A FINE LAD, ARMAND! YOU HAVE WON MY ADMIRATION AND I WISH TO REWARD YOU BY OFFERING YOU CELESTE'S HAND IN MARRIAGE!

THAT NIGHT, A BANQUET WAS HELD TO CELEBRATE THE WEDDING, AND ARMAND WAS MADE HEIR TO THE THRONE. HE HAD THE GENIE BUILD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CASTLE AS A WEDDING GIFT TO HIS BRIDE! SO THE WOODCUTTER HAD FOUND HIS FORTUNE INDEED! IT SEEMED THAT ARMAND'S PATH OF LIFE WOULD FOREVER BE STREWN WITH ROSES...



WHEN SUDDENLY A DARK, OMINOUS CLOUD SETTLED OVER BAGDAD... AND OUT OF IT STEPPED THE GRAND VIZIER SEEKING VENGEANCE...

NOW TO CHANGE MY FORM AND ENTER THE CASTLE...



HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A BEAUTIFUL SIAMESE CAT...

MEEEOOWW!



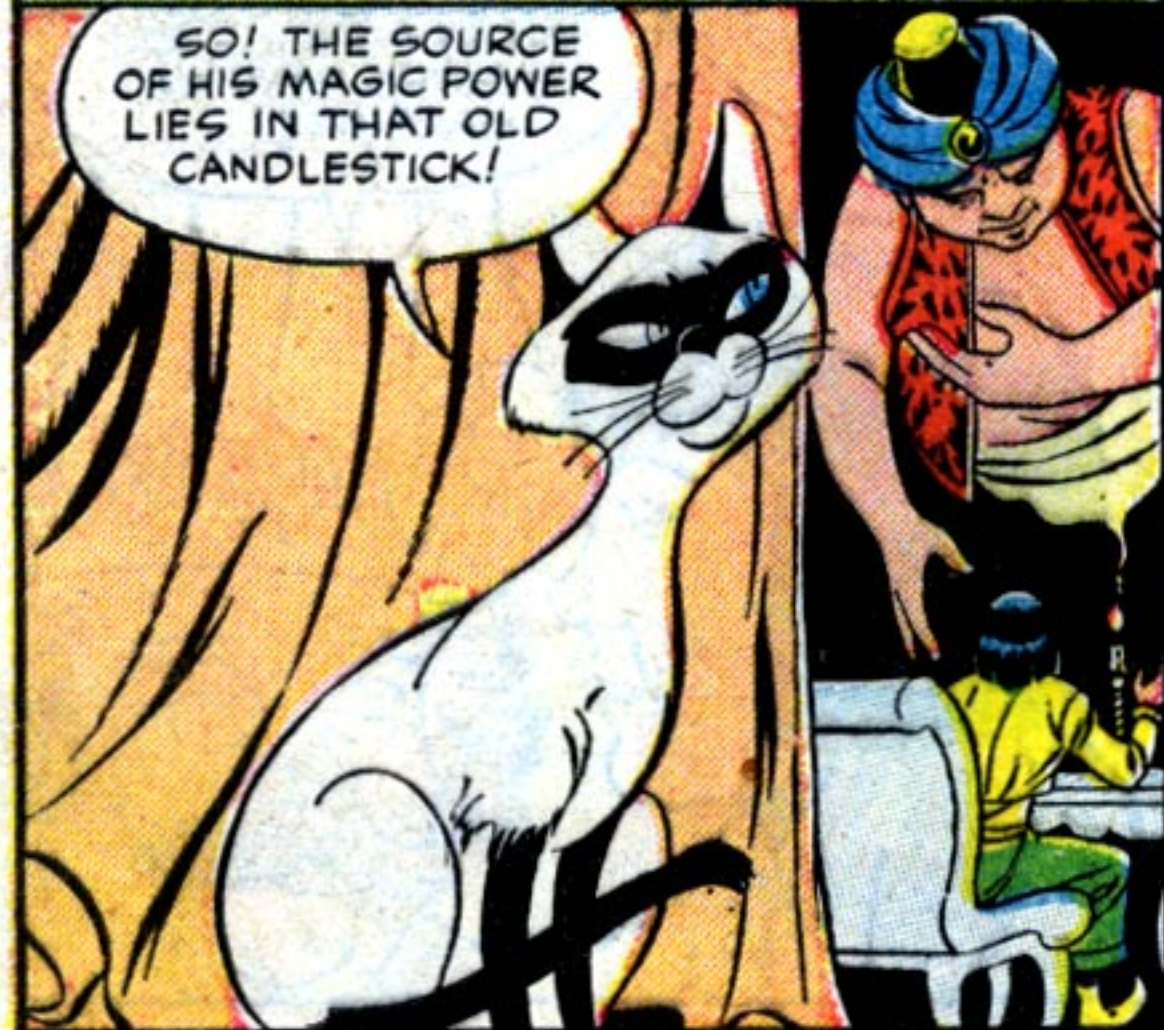
OUTSIDE THE CASTLE THE UNSUSPECTING PRINCESS CELESTE FINDS THE CAT...

WHAT A LOVELY CAT YOU ARE! I SHALL TAKE YOU INTO THE CASTLE AND GIVE YOU A GOOD HOME!



THAT NIGHT, WHILE WANDERING ABOUT, THE CAT SEES ARMAND USING THE CANDLESTICK...

SO! THE SOURCE OF HIS MAGIC POWER LIES IN THAT OLD CANDLESTICK!



IN THE MORNING, WHEN ARMAND LEAVES ON HIS ROUNDS TO HELP THE POOR, THE CAT WATCHES... AND WATCHES... AND WAITS...

'TIS A FINE DAY TO HELP ONE'S FELLOWMAN! I WILL BE HOME SHORTLY, GOOD WIFE!



BUT NO SOONER IS ARMAND OUT OF SIGHT, WHEN THE INNOCENT LOOKING CAT CHANGES BACK INTO THE EVIL VIZIER!



NOW TO MAKE HIS MAGIC CANDLESTICK MY OWN!

OHH, IT IS YOU!

HE WASTES NO TIME IN SUMMONING THE GENIE...

TAKE THIS CASTLE AND ALL IT'S OCCUPANTS AND MOVE IT TO THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN ON THE VERY TOP OF THE WORLD!



YES, MASTER! I OBEY!

WHEN ARMAND RETURNS HOME, HE FINDS NOTHING BUT A BARE, DESOLATE SPOT WHERE HIS BEAUTIFUL CASTLE ONCE STOOD...



WHAT CRUEL FATE HAS BEFALLEN MY BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS AND MY CASTLE...?

COME ALONG! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST BY ORDER OF THE KING!

ARMAND IS BLAMED FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PRINCESS AND THROWN INTO THE DUNGEON...



OUT THERE IN THE COURTYARD! THE OLD MAN WHO GAVE ME THE CURSED CANDLESTICK! ... OLD MAN... OLD MAN! IT IS I, ARMAND IN THIS PRISON!

HAVE COURAGE! I WILL HELP YOU!

...AND HE WAS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! AFTER ARMAND TOLD OF HIS PLIGHT, THE OLD MAN GESTURED...



EVIG SU SGNIV OT YLF!

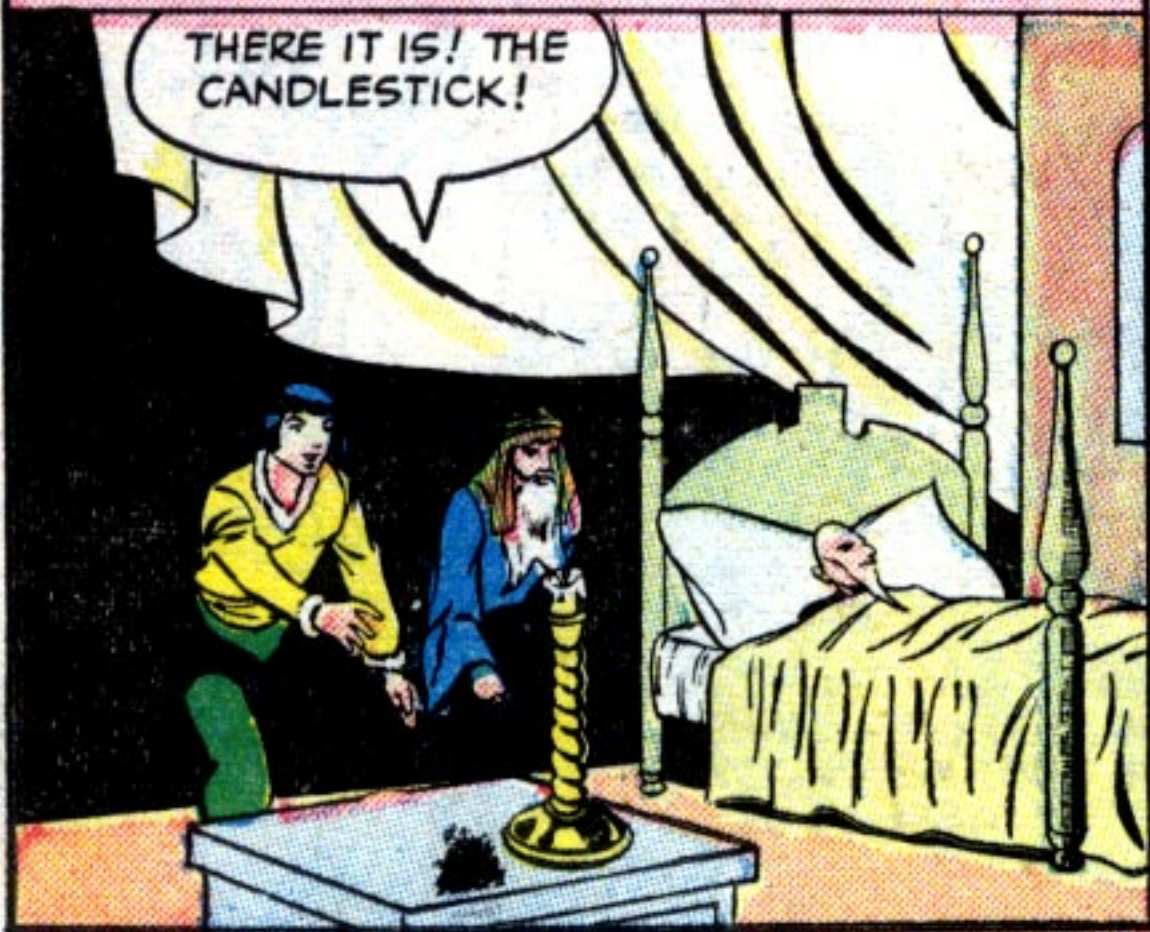
...AND TO ARMAND'S GREAT SURPRISE, HE AND THE OLD MAN WERE FLYING OVER THE TOP OF THE WORLD!



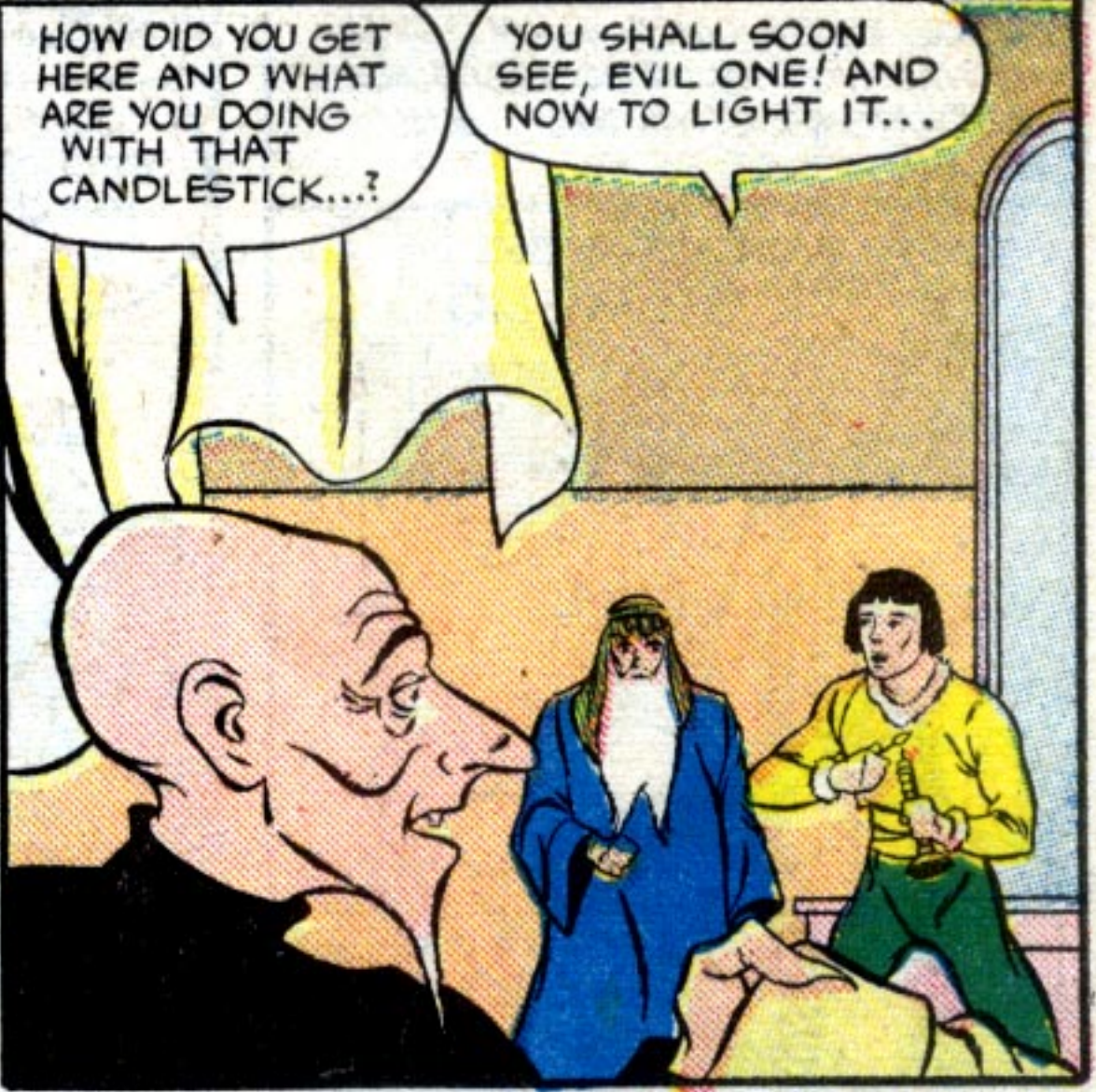
LOOK! THERE IT IS... THE CASTLE ON THE TOP OF THE WORLD! WE MUST MAKE HASTE TO SAVE THE PRINCESS FROM THE EVIL VIZIER!

FIRST WE MUST LAND!

BY THIS TIME, ARMAND KNOWS THAT THE OLD MAN IS REALLY A GOOD SORCERER! A FEW POTENT WORDS OF MAGIC ARE UTTERED... AND THEY WALK THROUGH WALLS! THEY ENTER THE BEDCHAMBER OF THE SLEEPING VIZIER...



THERE IT IS! THE CANDLESTICK!



HOW DID YOU GET HERE AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT CANDLESTICK...?

YOU SHALL SOON SEE, EVIL ONE! AND NOW TO LIGHT IT...

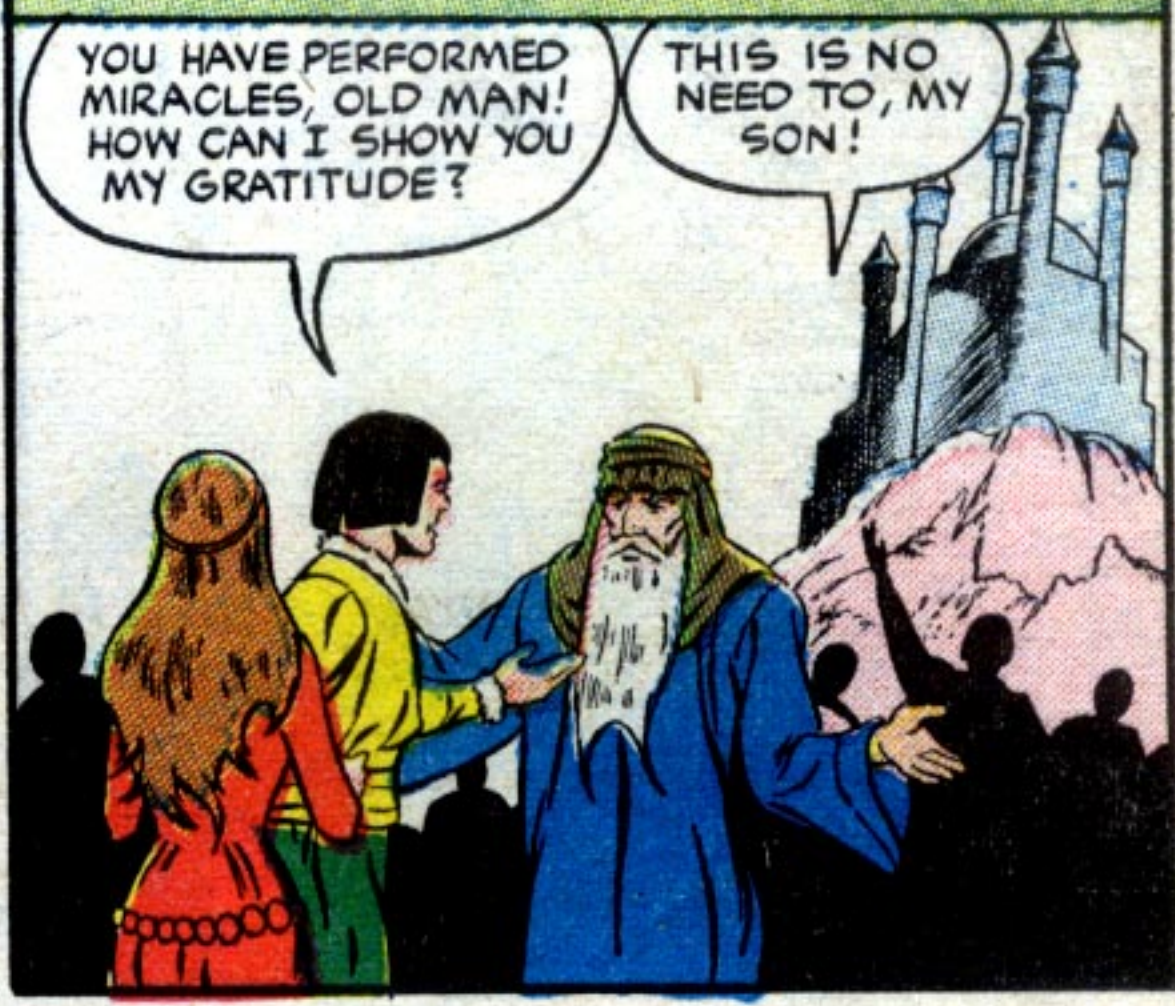
THE GENIE APPEARS... READY TO DO ARMAND'S BIDDING...



TAKE THIS CASTLE AND EVERYONE IN IT BACK, TO THE PLACE IT ONCE STOOD! THAT IS EVERYONE EXCEPT THE VIZIER! LET HIM STAY HERE, BANISHED FOREVER ON THE TOP OF THE WORLD!

WHY, YES! LITTLE MASTER!

THE PEOPLE REJOICE IN THE STREETS WHEN THE CASTLE WITH ARMAND AND THEIR BELOVED PRINCESS IS RETURNED!

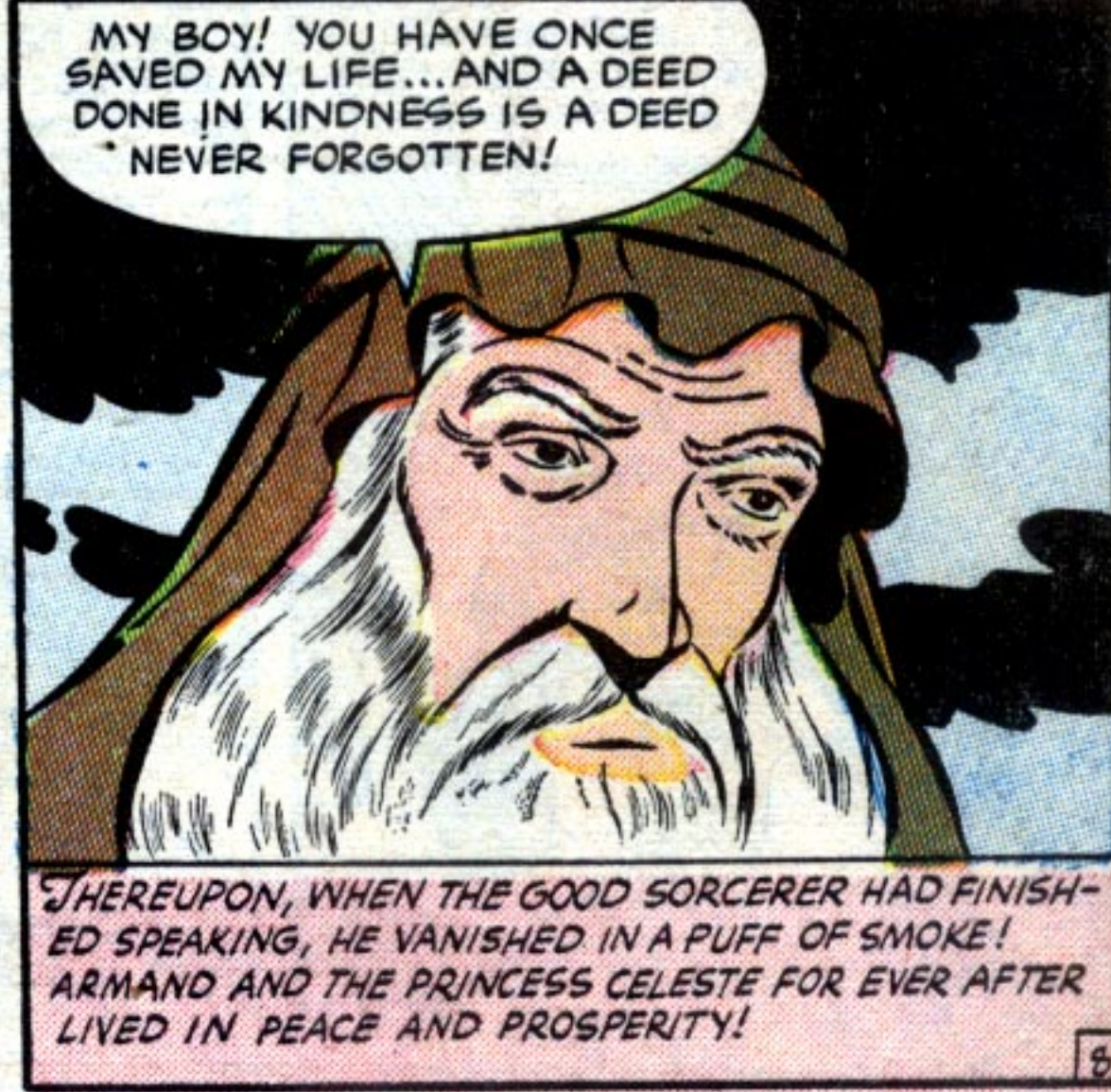


YOU HAVE PERFORMED MIRACLES, OLD MAN! HOW CAN I SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE?

THIS IS NO NEED TO, MY SON!



BUT I WILL BE ETERNALLY INDEBTED FOR YOUR KINDNESS IN HAVING SAVED CELESTE FROM THE POWERFUL VIZIER! IN ANY WAY, COMMAND ME SIRE!



MY BOY! YOU HAVE ONCE SAVED MY LIFE... AND A DEED DONE IN KINDNESS IS A DEED NEVER FORGOTTEN!

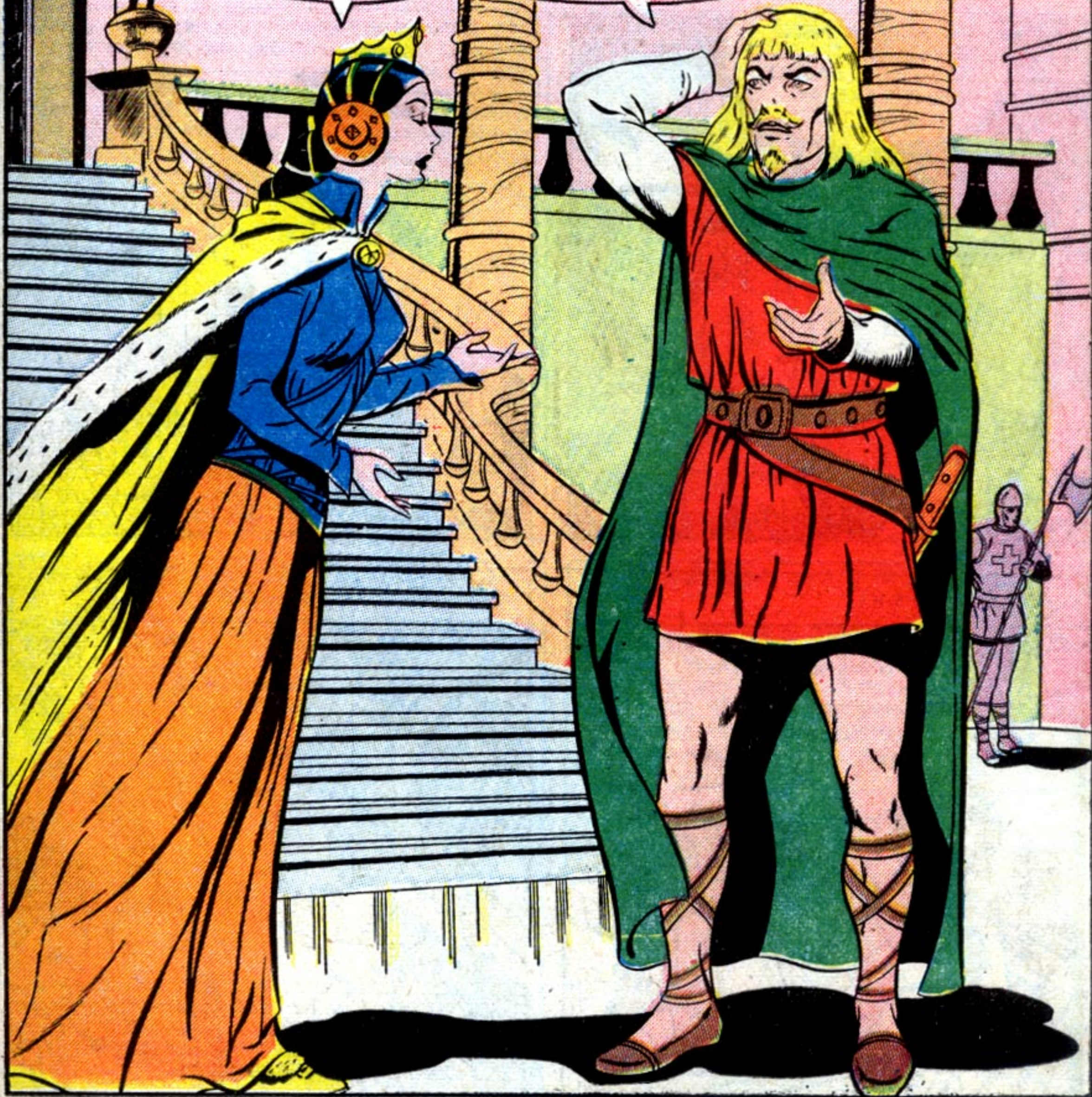
THEREUPON, WHEN THE GOOD SORCERER HAD FINISHED SPEAKING, HE VANISHED IN A PUFF OF SMOKE! ARMAND AND THE PRINCESS CELESTE FOR EVER AFTER LIVED IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY!

ONCE THERE LIVED A HARD WORKING HUNTER NAMED JOHN. HIS COTTAGE WAS SHABBY AND HE HAD NOT MUCH TO TREASURE BUT HE WAS ALWAYS THOUGHTFUL OF OTHERS AND SOUGHT NOTHING FOR HIMSELF. STILL HE WAS CURSED WITH A NAGGING WIFE WHOSE GREED COULD NEVER BE SATISFIED. THIS, THEN IS THE STORY OF HOW A MOST UNUSUAL RABBIT CAUSED THEIR RISE FROM HUMBLE RAGS TO RICHES. THIS RABBIT WAS SO UNUSUAL I GUESS, BECAUSE HE WAS...

A Magic Rabbit

GO, TELL THE RABBIT I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I CAN MAKE THE SUN RISE AND SET AT MY COMMAND!

BUT, WIFE! HOW CAN YOU ASK THIS OF ME, WHEN I HAVE JUST BEGGED THE RABBIT TO MAKE YOU EMPRESS!



JOHN AND HIS WIFE LIVED TOGETHER IN A LITTLE HUT NEAR THE EDGE OF A FOREST. AND EVERY DAY, FOR MANY A LONG DAY HE WOULD GO INTO THE WOODS TO HUNT!

I AM GOING TO CHECK MY TRAPS TODAY, SO I WILL BE HOME EARLY!

YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, HUSBAND! FOR ALL YOUR TRAPS WILL BE EMPTY AS USUAL!



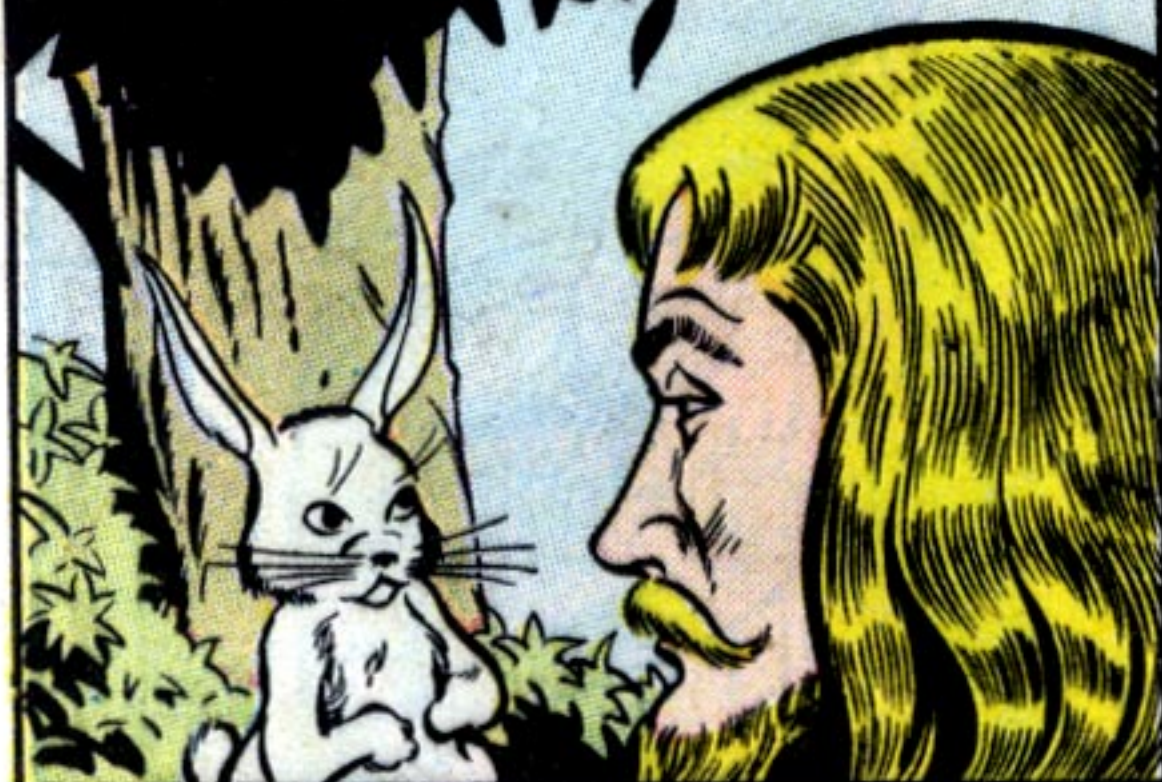
...AND ALL THE TRAPS WERE EMPTY, THAT IS, ALL EXCEPT THE LAST ONE!

A RABBIT! AT LAST THERE WILL BE SOME MEAT ON OUR TABLE!

DO NOT KILL ME, HUNTER! I BEG OF YOU! AS YOU SEE, I CAN SPEAK! I AM NOT A REAL RABBIT, BUT A BEWITCHED PRINCE! LET ME RUN OFF INTO THE FOREST, FOR I WILL NOT TASTE GOOD!



YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY! I WOULD NOT KILL A RABBIT WHO SPEAKS SO WELL!



AS SOON AS THE RABBIT WAS FREED, HE SPRANG OFF INTO THE DEEP WOODS, AND THE HUNTER HEADED HOME...

THERE! I WAS RIGHT! YOU HAVE CAUGHT NOTHING AGAIN!

AH, BUT YOU ARE WRONG, FOR I TRAPPED A RABBIT WHO SAID HE WAS AN ENCHANTED PRINCE, SO OF COURSE, I LET HIM GO!



THIS ENRAGED JOHN'S WIFE THOROUGHLY AND SHE STARTED TO NAG...

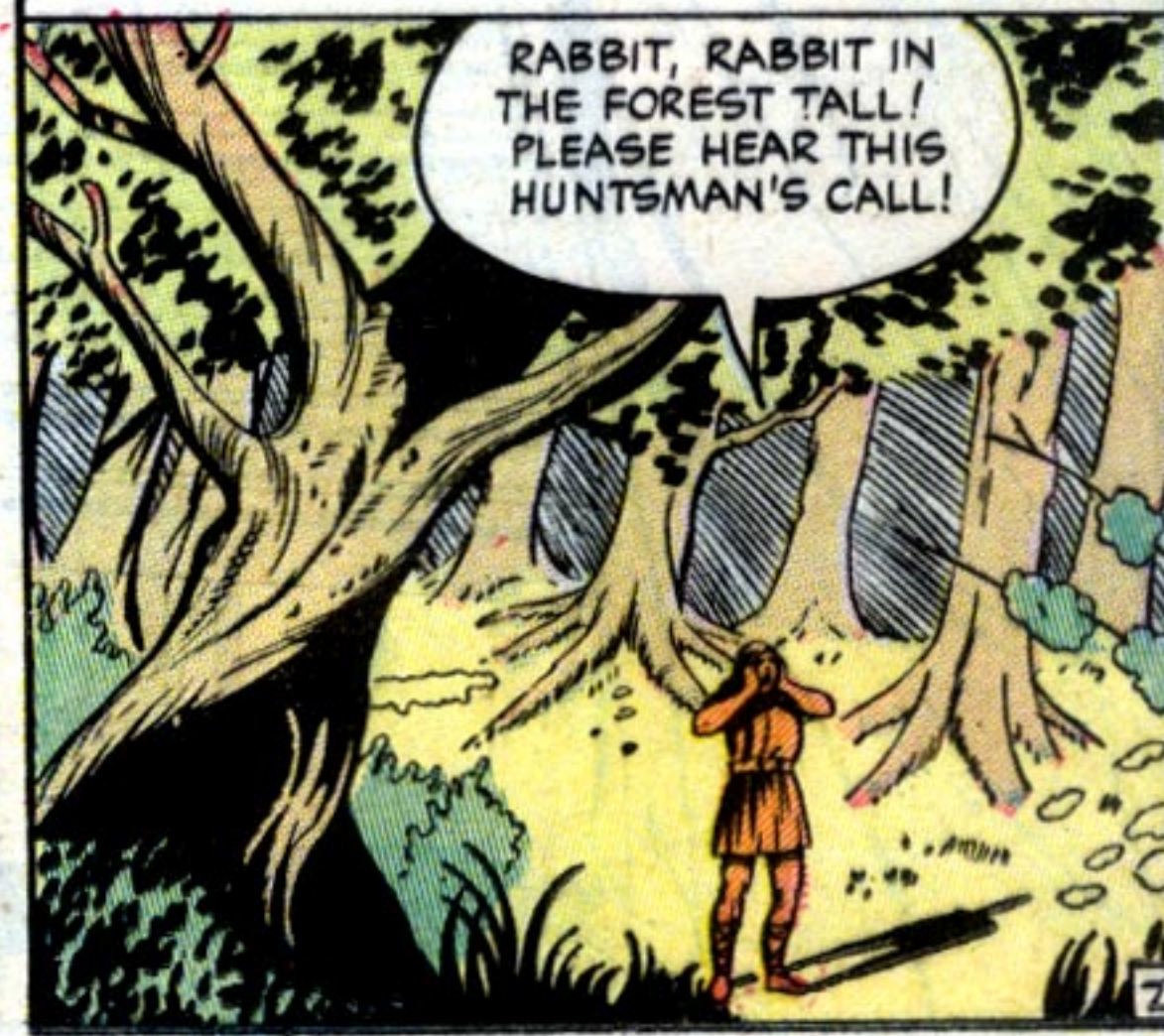
YOU FOOL! YOU HAD BUT ASKED THE RABBIT FOR A WISH HE WOULD HAVE GRANTED IT! YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE ASKED FOR A BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE! YOU MUST GO BACK TOMORROW!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! THIS DOES NOT PLEASE ME... BUT I WILL GO JUST TO KEEP PEACE!



EARLY THE NEXT DAY, JOHN WANDERS INTO THE DEEPEST PART OF THE FOREST...

RABBIT, RABBIT IN THE FOREST TALL! PLEASE HEAR THIS HUNTSMAN'S CALL!





OH, THANK HEAVENS YOU ARE HERE, RABBIT!

WHY HAVE YOU CALLED UPON ME, HUNTER?



MY WIFE DEMANDED THAT I ASK YOU TO GRANT ME A WISH! SHE WILL NOT LIVE ANY LONGER IN OUR HOUSE AND CRAVES A NEW ONE!

GO HOME! IT IS ALREADY DONE!

HE RETURNS HOME TO FIND A BEAUTIFUL NEW COTTAGE WHERE THE OLD HUT ONCE STOOD!



I HOPE YOU WILL BE CONTENT NOW, WIFE!

I WILL THINK ABOUT THAT! BUT COME INSIDE AND SEE! IS THIS ALL NOT BETTER?

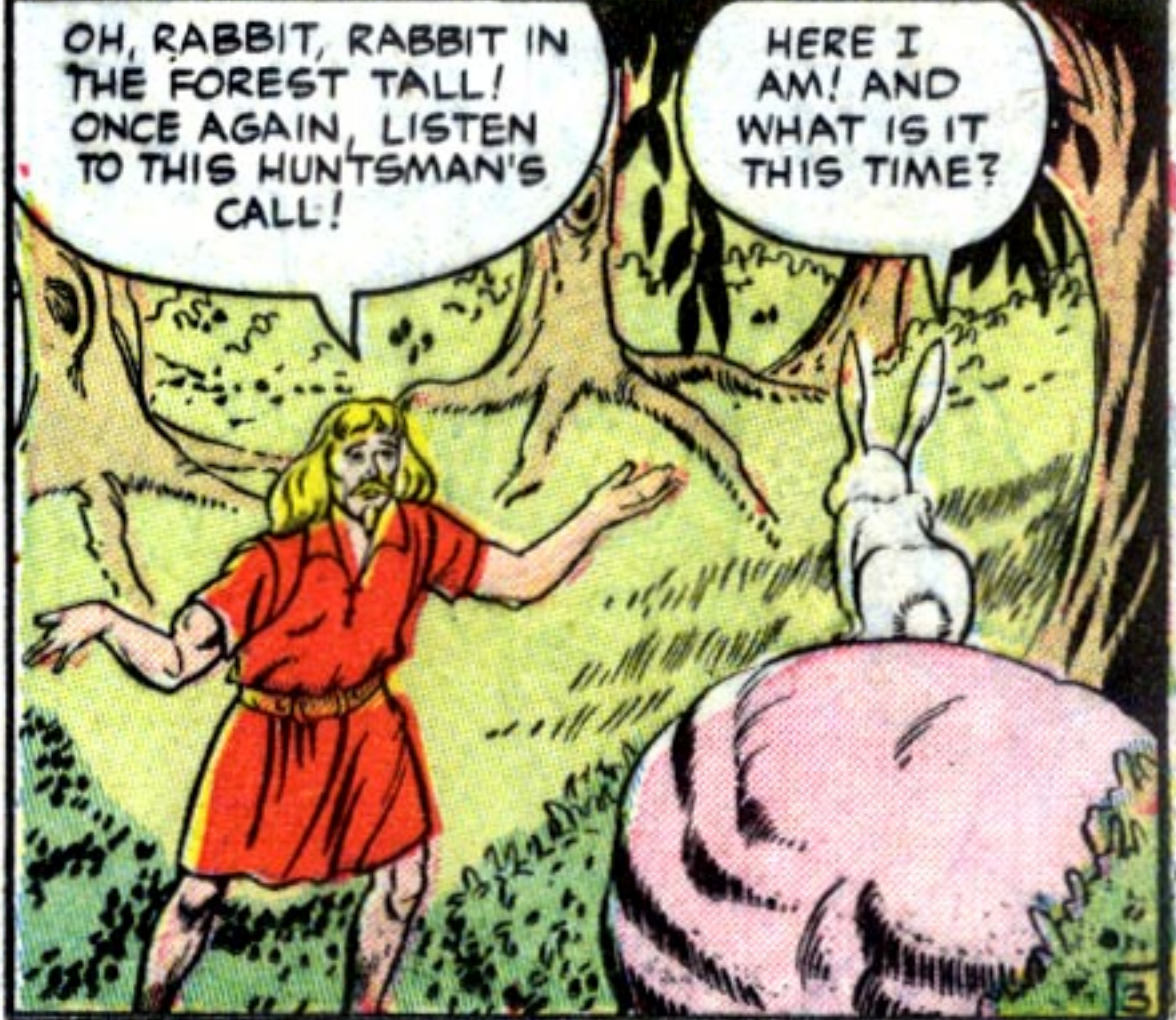
WHEN FIVE TO TEN DAYS HAD PASSED, THE WIFE WAS AGAIN POSSESSED BY GREED AND BEGAN TO NAG HER HUSBAND...



I AM TIRED OF BEING A HOUSEWIFE IN THIS TINY COTTAGE! I DESIRE TO BE A DUCHESS... GO, THEN, TO THE RABBIT AND ASK HIM TO GRANT MY WISH!

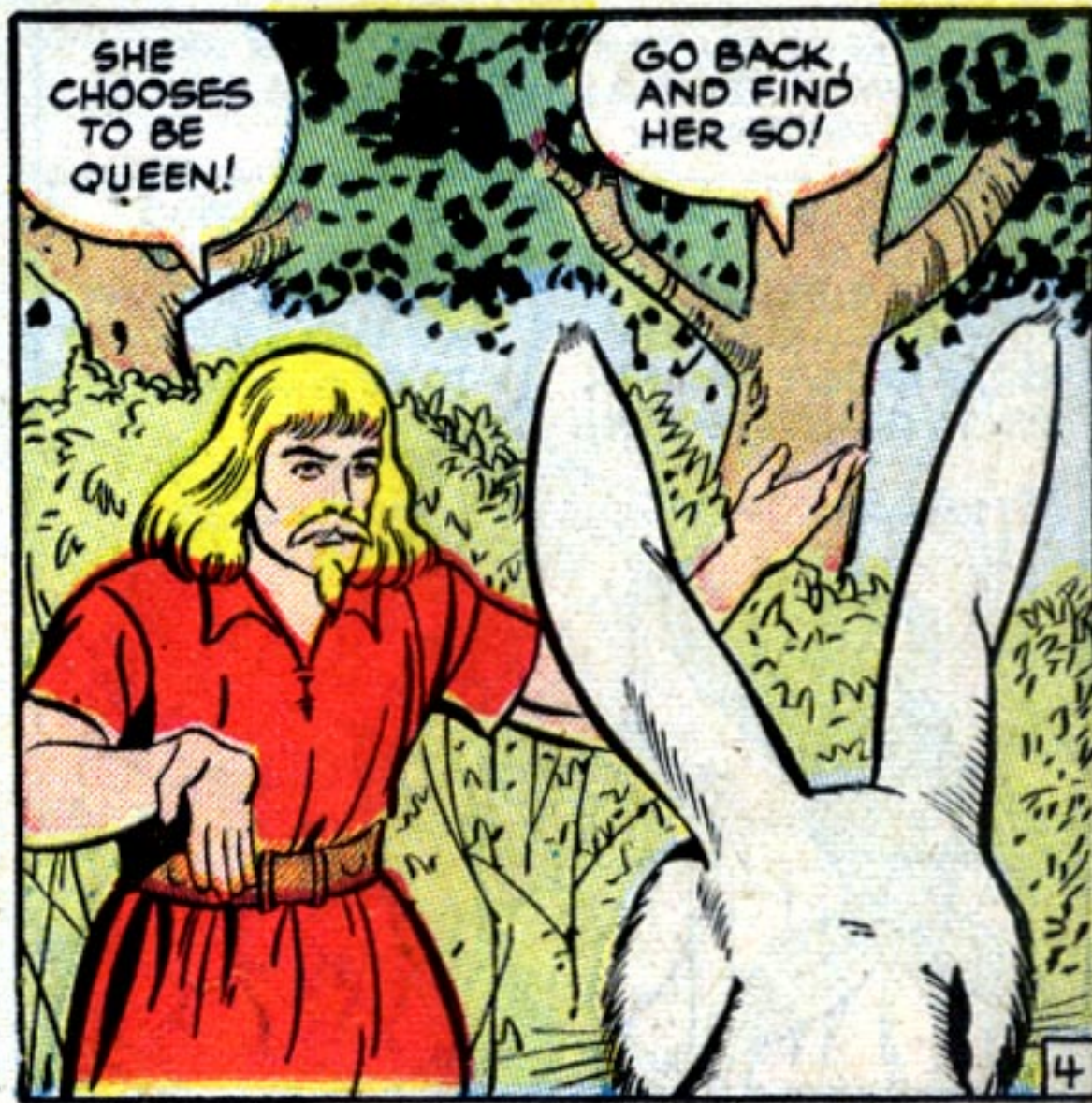
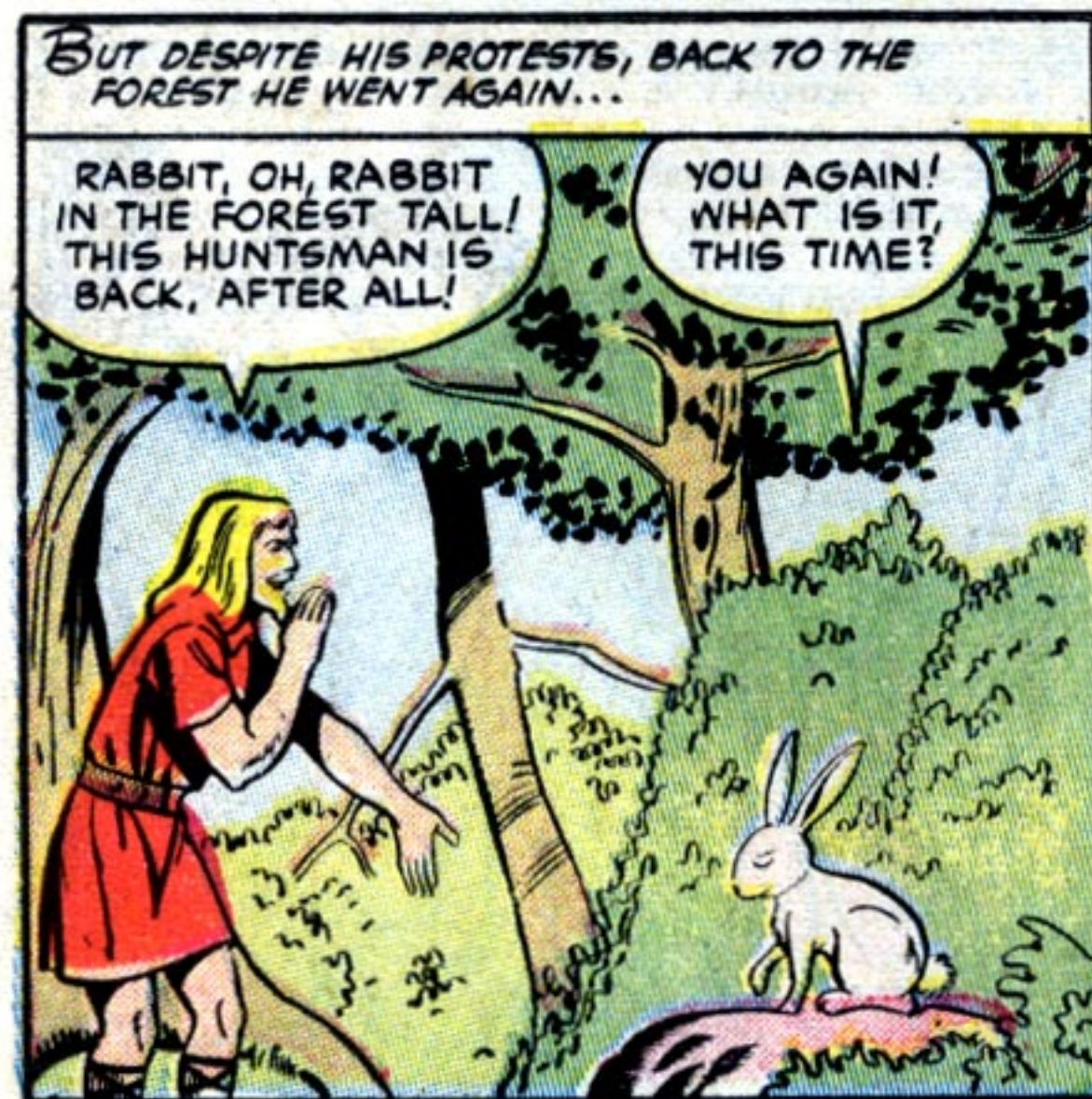
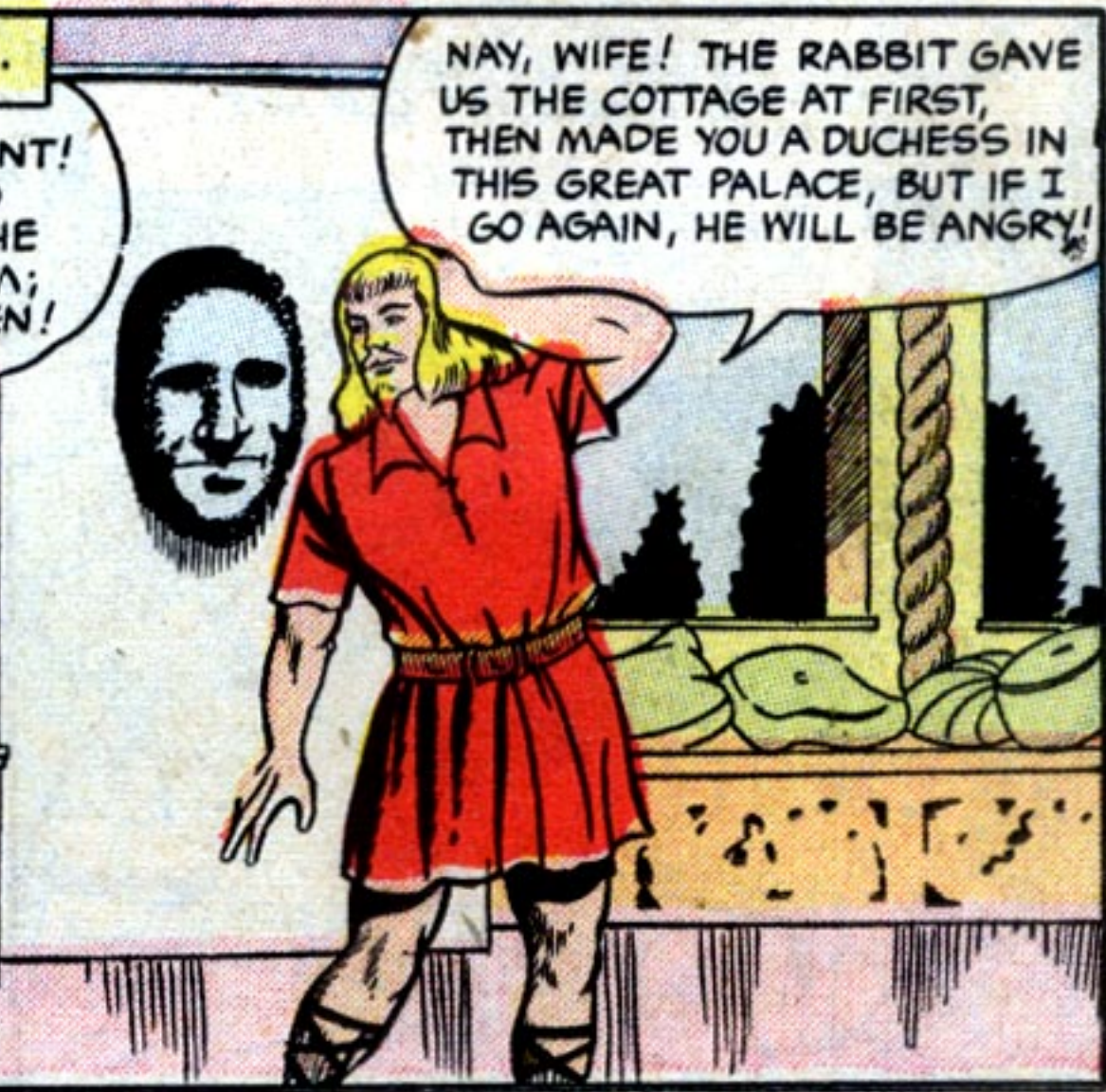
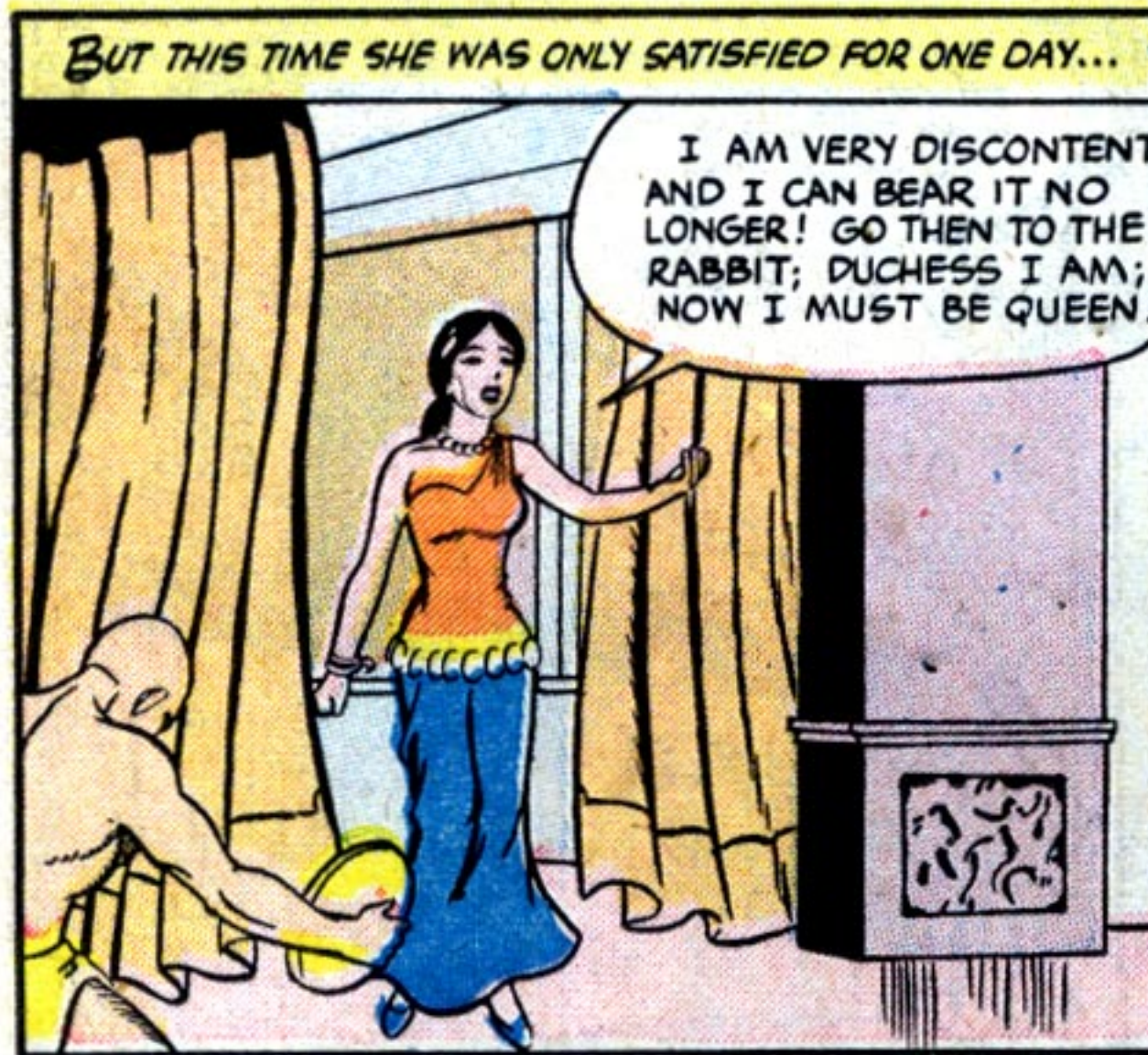
BUT, WIFE! THIS COTTAGE IS FINE! I CAN NOT SEE WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO BE A DUCHESS!

BUT, NEVERTHELESS, JOHN WENT BACK TO THE FOREST AGAIN...



OH, RABBIT, RABBIT IN THE FOREST TALL! ONCE AGAIN, LISTEN TO THIS HUNTSMAN'S CALL!

HERE I AM! AND WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?



THIS TIME, UPON ARRIVING HOME, JOHN FINDS A FABULOUS CASTLE MADE OF PURE GOLD AND PRECIOUS GEMS! INSIDE... HIS WIFE SAT UPON A MAGNIFICENT THRONE AND HAD A CROWN OF GOLD AND RUBIES UPON HER HEAD!

SHE MUST BE CONTENTED NOW! SINCE SHE IS QUEEN, SHE CANNOT BE ANYTHING GREATER!



THIS TIME, POOR JOHN BARELY GOT HIS FOOT INTO THE DOOR WHEN SHE BEGAN TO NAG HIM...

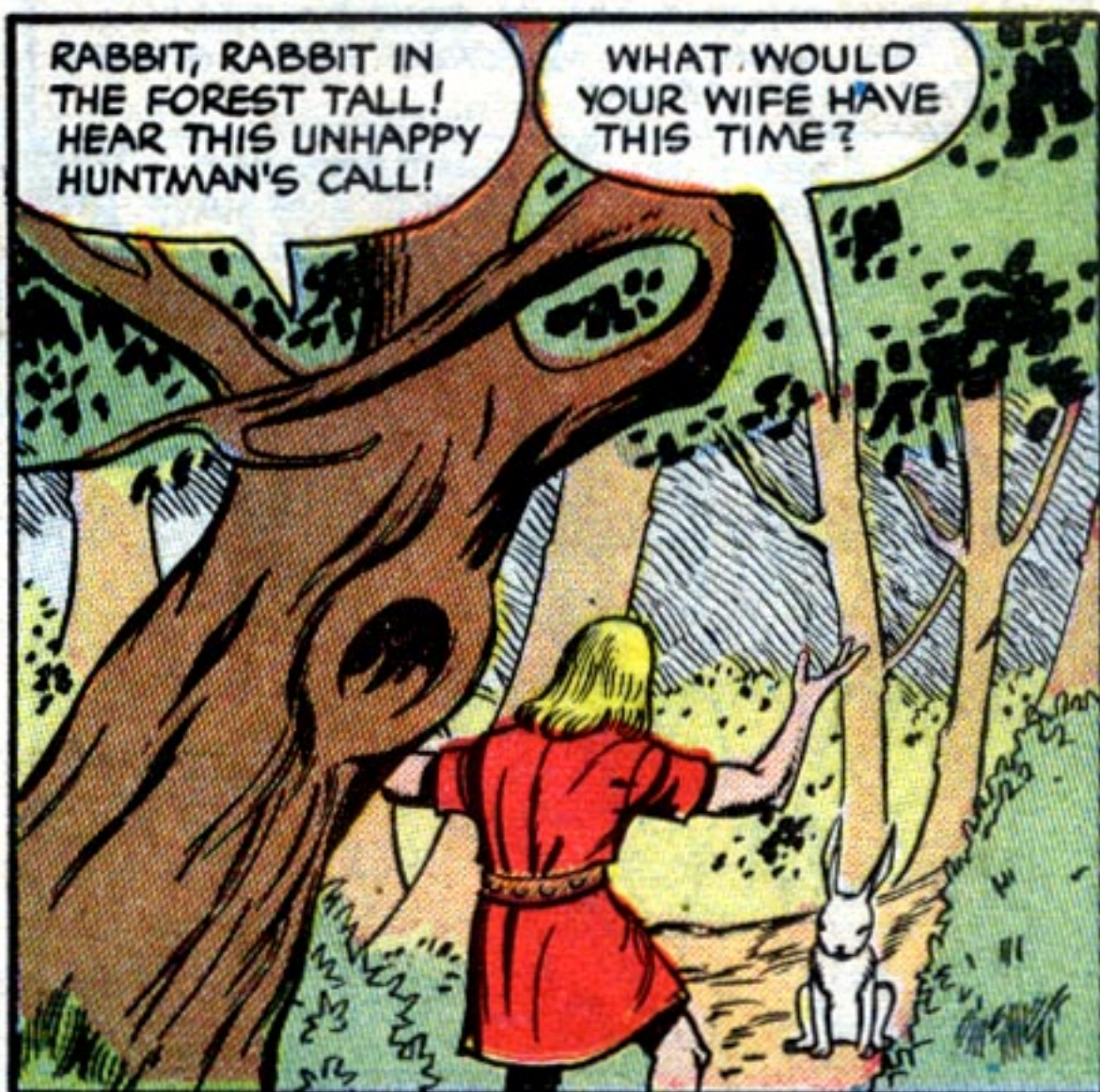
BEING QUEEN IS TOO BORING! I WANT... I WANT TO RULE THE ENTIRE EARTH! JOHN... YOU MUST ASK THE RABBIT TO MAKE ME EMPRESS OR I WILL HAVE YOU THROWN INTO A DUNGEON!

WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE BUT TO GO!



RABBIT, RABBIT IN THE FOREST TALL! HEAR THIS UNHAPPY HUNTSMAN'S CALL!

WHAT WOULD YOUR WIFE HAVE THIS TIME?



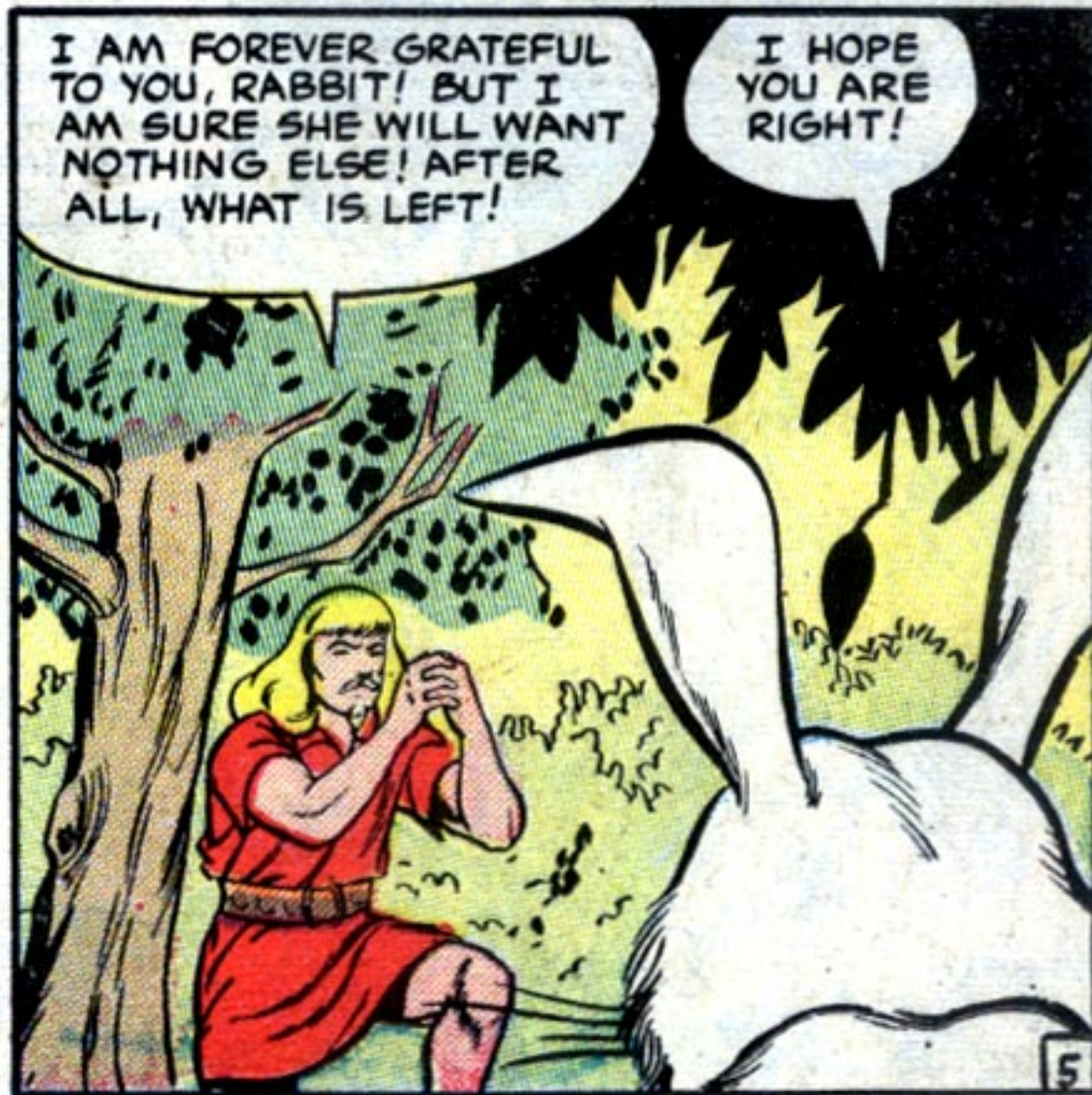
SHE WILL THROW ME INTO A DUNGEON UNLESS SHE BECOMES EMPRESS OF THE ENTIRE EARTH!

IF YOU GO HOME, YOU WILL FIND HER WISH HAS BEEN GRANTED!



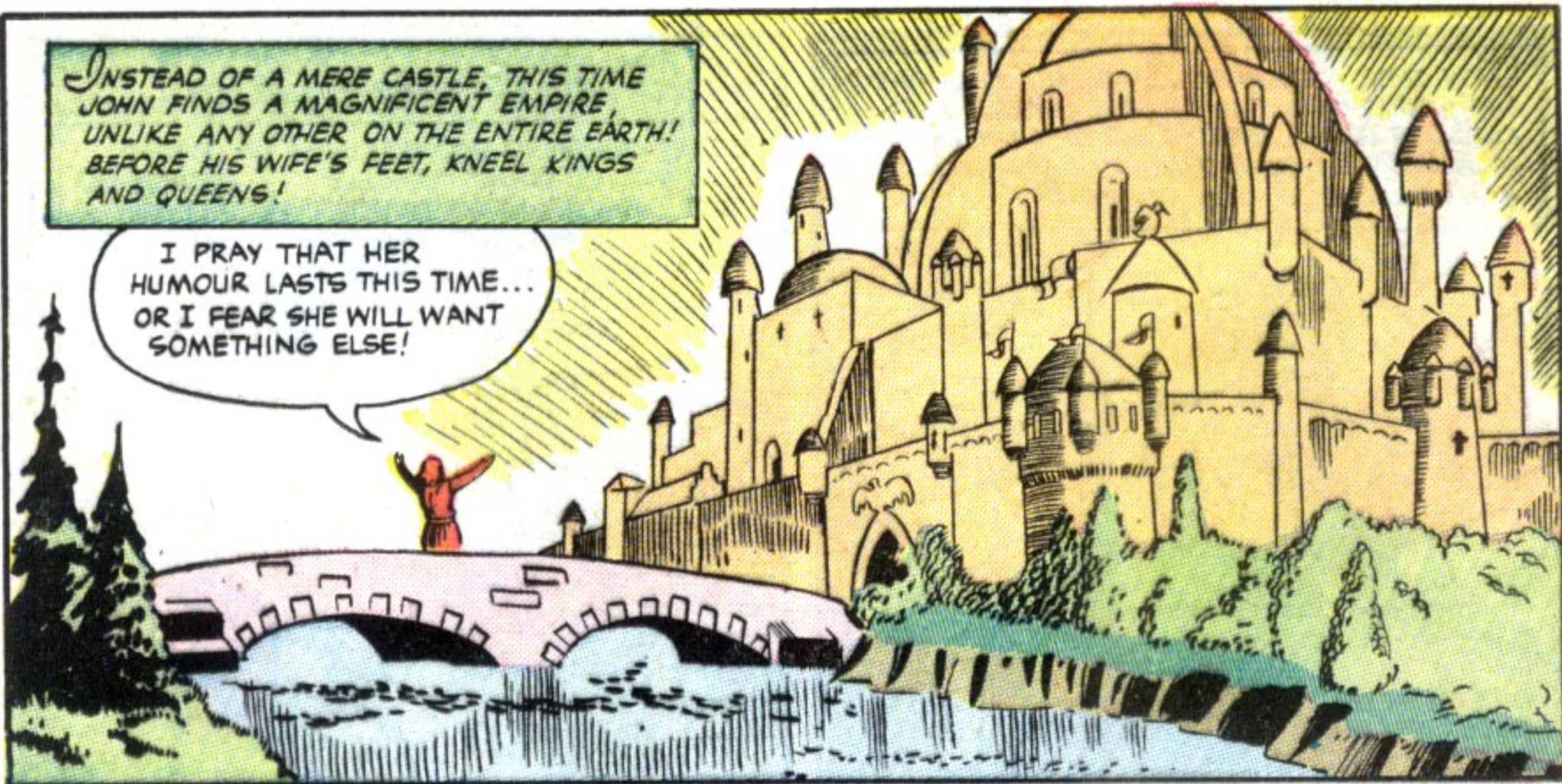
I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL TO YOU, RABBIT! BUT I AM SURE SHE WILL WANT NOTHING ELSE! AFTER ALL, WHAT IS LEFT!

I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT!



INSTEAD OF A MERE CASTLE, THIS TIME JOHN FINDS A MAGNIFICENT EMPIRE, UNLIKE ANY OTHER ON THE ENTIRE EARTH! BEFORE HIS WIFE'S FEET, KNEEL KINGS AND QUEENS!

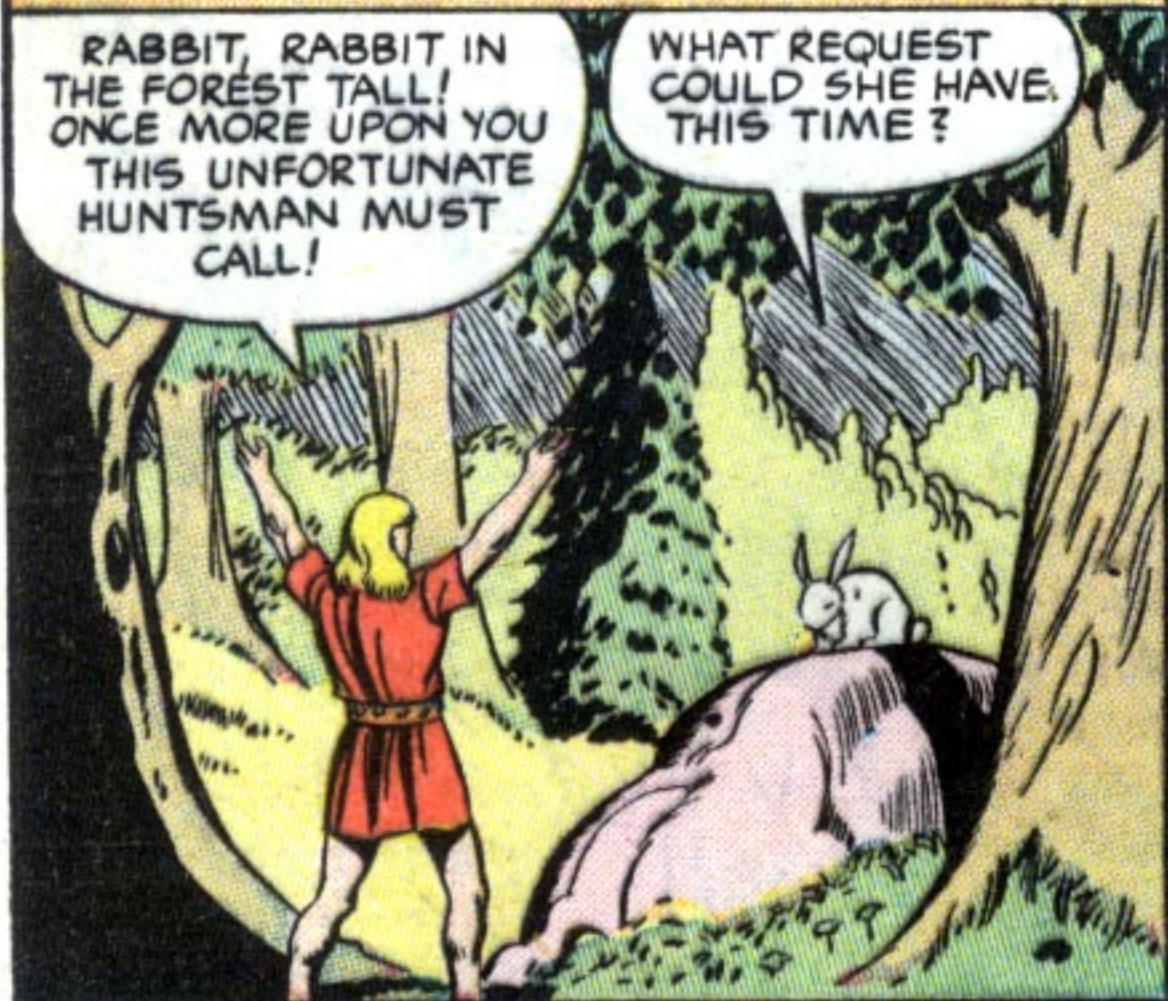
I PRAY THAT HER HUMOUR LASTS THIS TIME... OR I FEAR SHE WILL WANT SOMETHING ELSE!



BUT SOON... YOU GUESSED IT, DEAR READER! POOR JOHN IS BACK IN THE FOREST AGAIN, SEEKING OUT THE MAGIC RABBIT...

RABBIT, RABBIT IN THE FOREST TALL! ONCE MORE UPON YOU THIS UNFORTUNATE HUNTSMAN MUST CALL!

WHAT REQUEST COULD SHE HAVE THIS TIME?

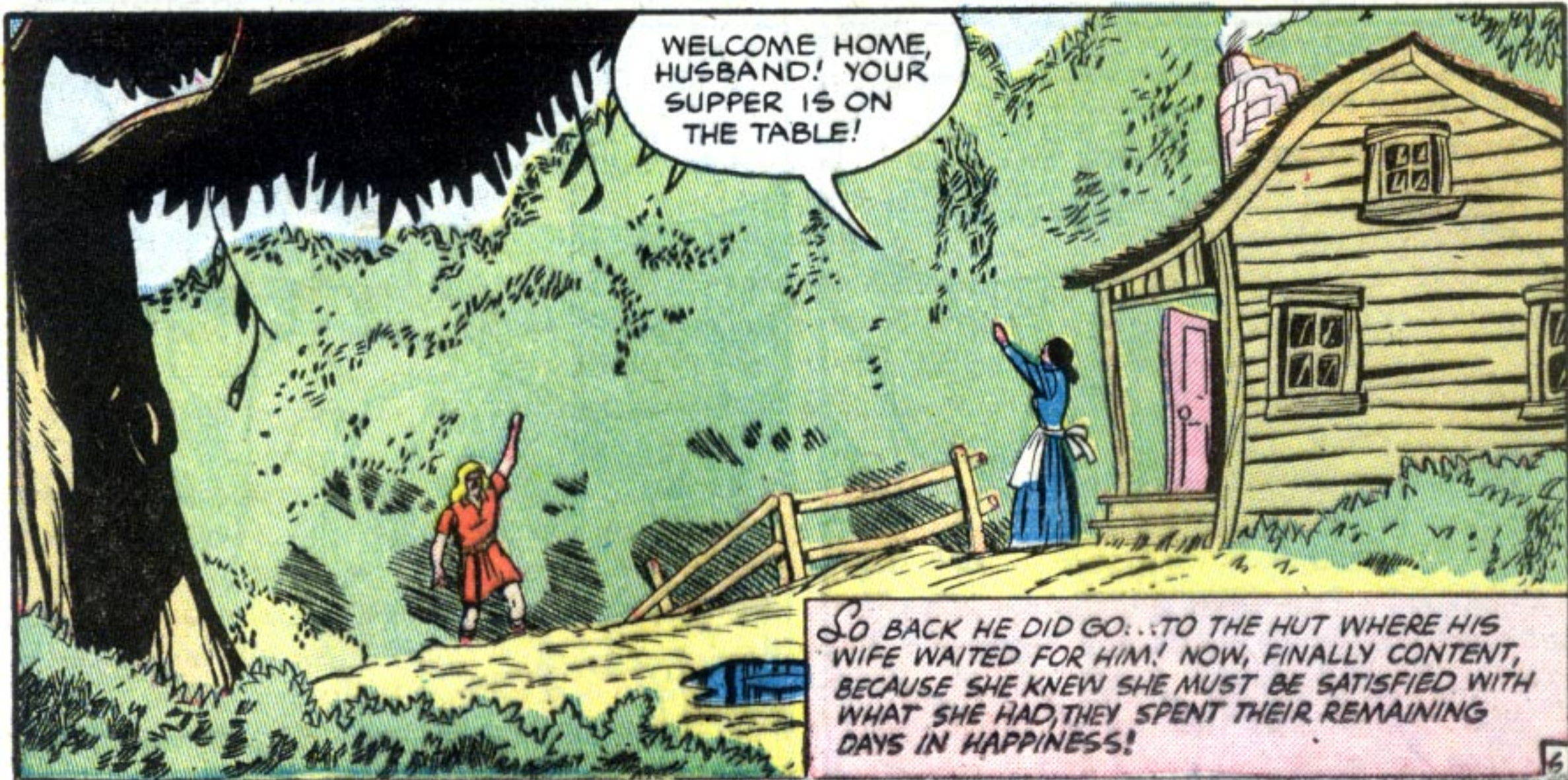


SHE SAID SHE MUST BE THE SUPREME RULER OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!

THIS TIME HER GREED HAS GONE TOO FAR! RETURN TO FIND HER BACK IN HER HUT! THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE ONCE THE HAPPIEST!



WELCOME HOME, HUSBAND! YOUR SUPPER IS ON THE TABLE!



SO BACK HE DID GO... TO THE HUT WHERE HIS WIFE WAITED FOR HIM! NOW, FINALLY CONTENT, BECAUSE SHE KNEW SHE MUST BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT SHE HAD, THEY SPENT THEIR REMAINING DAYS IN HAPPINESS!



The Prince and the Beggar's Son

by Jonnie-Ruth Pat

Many years ago in a faraway land, there was a Prince, handsome, strong, and just 12 years old. To look at him, anyone would have thought he was a wonderful young man. Really, however, he wasn't for he had many faults.

You see, his father, the King, was very indulgent, never guided the young Prince and never taught the young Prince the real values of life, and as a result, he was raised without any friends and taught to be selfish and arrogant. It really wasn't his fault.

In this same kingdom of Zamara there were many beggars, because the common people were very poor. One of the beggars was forced to seek alms on the street corner of the Capitol city because he was horribly handicapped. Years ago he had been a woodchopper, but suffered a terrible accident when an oak tree fell on his legs and crushed them. Because he could work no longer, he was forced to beg. People were very kind to him and generous, and his son, a handsome youth named Jeremy, was himself very kind and generous because his father had trained him that way and showed him how good people were to him.

One day Jeremy went into the woods to play. He saw a beautiful butterfly and started to chase it. Without knowing it, he wandered into the woods onto the ground of the King's own forest. He didn't know he was trespassing. Suddenly he saw another boy, clothed in beautiful raiment. It was the young Prince Igor. In a friendly way Jeremy advanced toward Igor and held out his hand in friendship.

"What are you doing trespassing on the land of the royal forest", said Igor. "You have no right here", and then looking scornfully at Jeremy, he said, "You are only a beggar's son, a filthy commoner".

You might think that such harsh words would have hurt the feelings of Jeremy, but they didn't. He left without a word, but in his heart he felt very sorry for the Prince because he knew that anyone so unkind as Igor would live to regret it.

After this encounter, Igor started to walk deeper into the forest. A strange feeling came over him, a feeling of remorse. He didn't know, however, why he felt badly, although you and I know that it was because he had been so mean to Jeremy, the beggar's son.

Igor felt badly, but he didn't know why. He had never been taught to feel badly when he had hurt someone.

As Igor continued wandering into the forest, he suddenly realized that he was lost. He was deep, deep in the heart of the forest, and there were no paths to lead him to safety. Soon he became frightened, because in this deep part of the forest, there were all sorts of ferocious animals. At a distance he saw two bears, huge black ones, prowling about. He turned and started to run when suddenly he spotted a panther, crouched on the limb of a tree, ready to spring just ahead of him. Again he turned and ran. Then the boy heard the bay of a pack of wolves.

By now, he was thoroughly frightened, trembling and started to cry. Suddenly he saw, straight ahead of him, sitting on a big boulder, a woman whom he took to be a witch.

"What's the matter, Prince Igor, why are you so frightened?"

"I'm lost and I can't find my way out of the forest" the Prince replied. "And now I am frightened of you because you are a witch."

"No", she told him, "I'm not a witch, but a helpful fairy, and I want to help you. You must learn the lesson of life. You must learn the path to happiness. I will save you if you will do just what I say."

By now, Prince Igor was so frightened that he was glad to agree to anything, and he told the helpful fairy that he would do her bidding.

She told him, "I will change you into a fox, and during this day, you will have the opportunity to do a good deed. If you perform this good deed, you will be changed back into a human. You will learn another lesson, and you will be safe and happy. But if you do not perform the good deed, you will remain a fox for the rest of your life. Do you accept?"

Poor, frightened Prince Igor accepted at once, and in the flash of an eye, the helpful fairy turned him into a fox. Now, Igor the fox, of course, was thoroughly at home in the forest, and he felt very happy that he could make his way about.

But suddenly, he heard the baying of dogs, and soon he saw a party of his father's huntsmen on horses and a big pack of fox hounds coming toward him. At once he knew the hunters were after him, and he started to run as fast as his four legs would take him. Sometimes, he was gaining distance and sometimes the dogs and hunters were closing in on him. For hours, it was nip and tuck, and he didn't know whether he could run and hide and run any further.

Just when his strength seemed exhausted, he heard the moaning of another animal, and as he ran towards this animal he saw it was another fox, just like himself, whose front right paw was caught in a trap.

What to do? For his own safety he could spare little time for the hunters were coming hard on his trail. But he knew the dogs would spot the other fox, caught in the trap, and tear him to bits. Suddenly, by a strange instinct he stopped, sunk his teeth into the jaws of the trap and lifted it just enough to release the other fox. With a word of thanks, the other fox scampered away on three legs, and Igor continued to elude his pursuers.

At the end of the day, it seemed that he had run faster than the dogs, who, by now, had become tired and turned back. He stopped for a drink of water in a brook and lay down for a well-needed rest. Suddenly, the helpful fairy appeared and said, "Igor, you have done your good deed, and I am now going to turn you back into a human being." With a stroke of her wand, she did that very thing, but Igor did not become his old self, the Prince, but became a beggar's son. "You'll live one year exactly as a beggar's son", said the helpful fairy, "and learn about life. If you learn well, when the year is up, you will become again Prince Igor."

He did live out the year as a beggar's son and got to know the people in the kingdom. He learned about the struggles of the poor and the unfortunate, and because he, himself, was poor, he learned to sympathize with the common people of the kingdom. As a beggar's son, he had no money, only tattered clothes and little to eat. But he learned to share what he had with others and learned the goodness of charity, kindness and understanding.

He learned it so well that in exactly one year he, suddenly, was changed back by the helpful fairy into Prince Igor. The Prince walked back into the castle to find that his father, who was really a good man, but did not understand his own people, had become very old and sick. When the King set his eyes on the Prince and realized how good an heir he had, he decided to abdicate the throne and allow Prince Igor to become King.

The first thing Igor did as King was to send for Jeremy, the beggar's son, whom he had gotten to know very well when he was a beggar's son. He made Jeremy Prime Minister of the government, and King Igor and Jeremy, the Prime Minister, at once made many reforms in the kingdom.

Wonderful times came to the Kingdom of Zamara because of these reforms. The government passed laws so that poverty and begging were abolished, and everyone was able to work happily and whistle while they worked. Hospitals were built for the sick and schools were made available for the poorest children.

And that is how it came to pass that selfish, arrogant Prince Igor became the good King Igor, how it came to pass that Jeremy, the beggar's son, became Prime Minister of the land and how it came to pass that Zamara became the happiest kingdom in all the world.

the STREET ORGAN



Not so long ago, on many city streets you could almost always hear the happy music of the street organs. Everyone loved the street organs, especially the children. One such organ was owned by an old man, who was as sweet as his music and as generous as his listeners, until one exciting day...

IT DOES MY HEART GOOD TO HEAR JULIUS PLAYING HIS STREET ORGAN! HE HAS BEEN DOING IT FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS!

AND IN ALL THAT TIME HE'S NEVER ACCEPTED MONEY FROM ANYONE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! EVEN THOUGH IT'S HIS ONLY WAY OF EARNING A LIVING! HE ONLY TAKES FROM THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT!



FINE MORNING, JULIUS!

HERE, JULIUS, HAVE AN APPLE! THE FINEST ON MY STAND!

GOOD MORNING, JULIUS! YOUR MUSIC SOUNDED FINE!

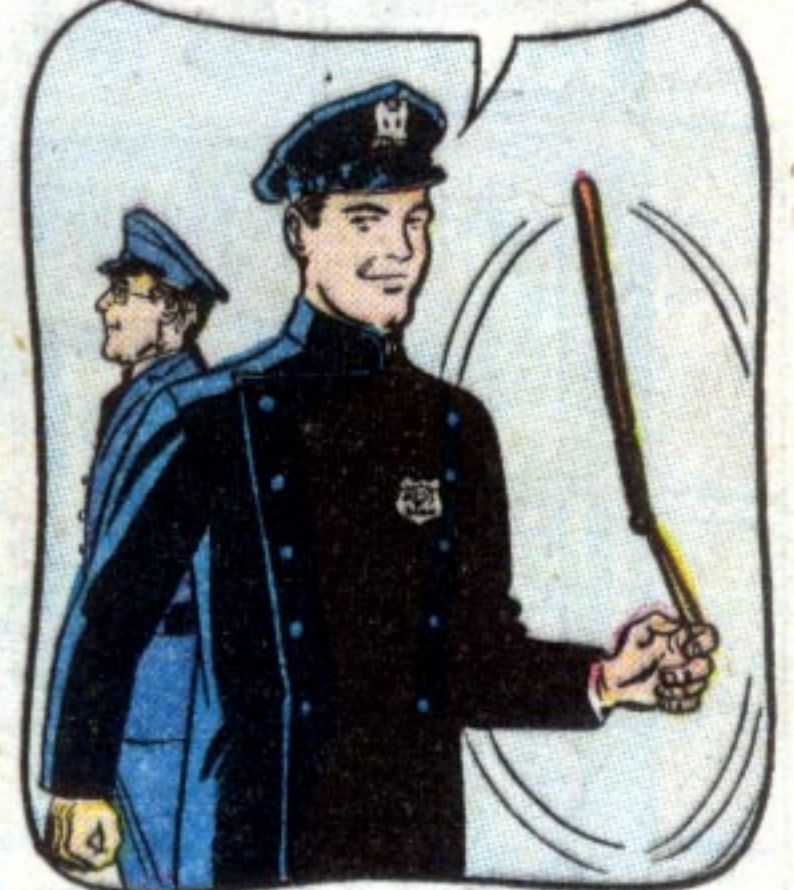


HELLO, MR. BARNES! TODAY'S MY FIRST DAY ON YOUR OLD BEAT AND I WAS THINKING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE ME A FEW POINTERS!

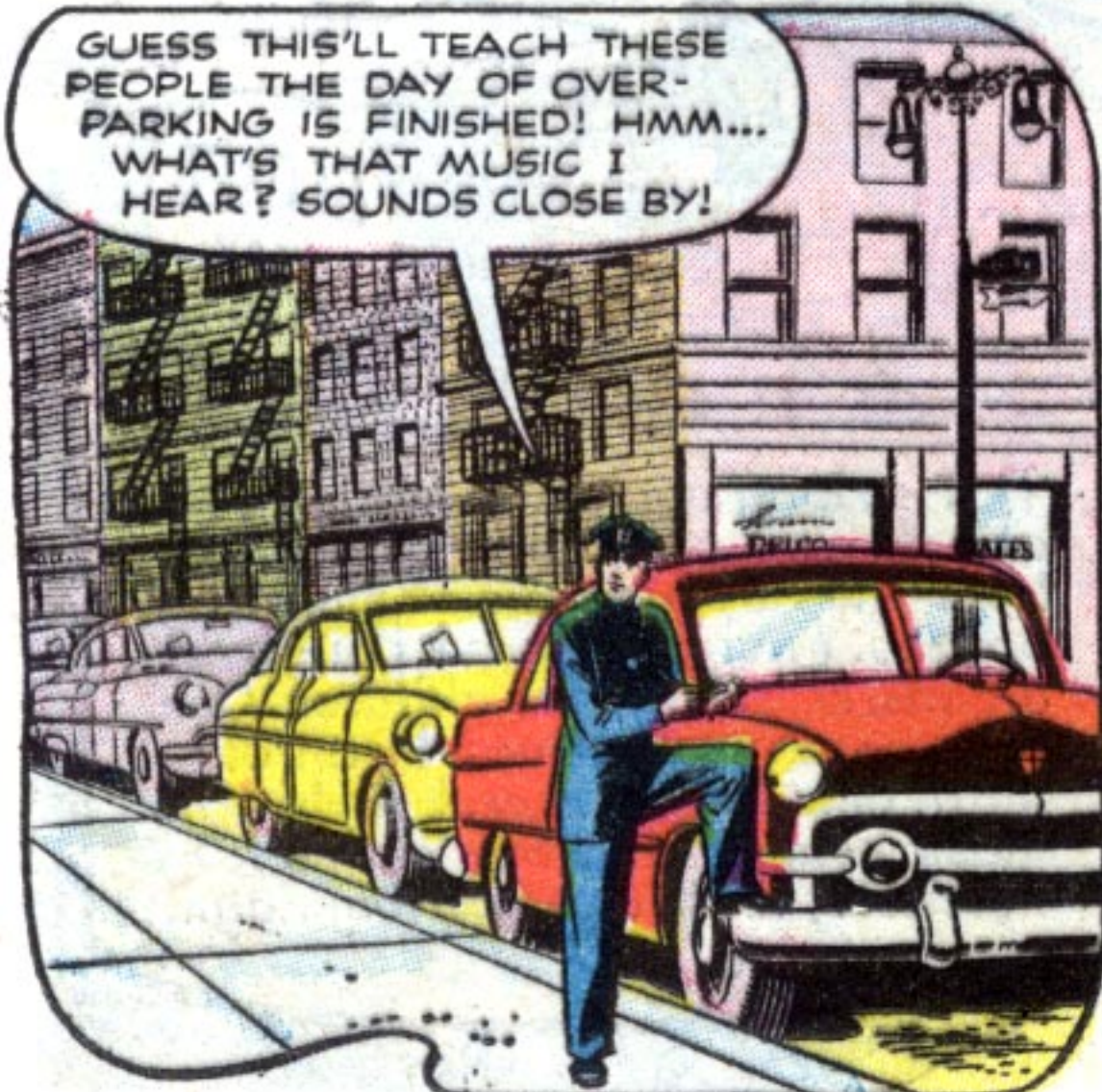
WELL, I GUESS AFTER TWENTY YEARS ON THIS BEAT, I MIGHT KNOW A BIT THAT WOULD BE OF HELP!

THE CHIEF THING IS THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE, DAVE! THEY ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, BUT THEY'RE TOUCHY! BE GENTLE WHERE DISCIPLINE IS INVOLVED AND YOU'LL GO A LOT FARTHER THAN GETTING TOUGH!

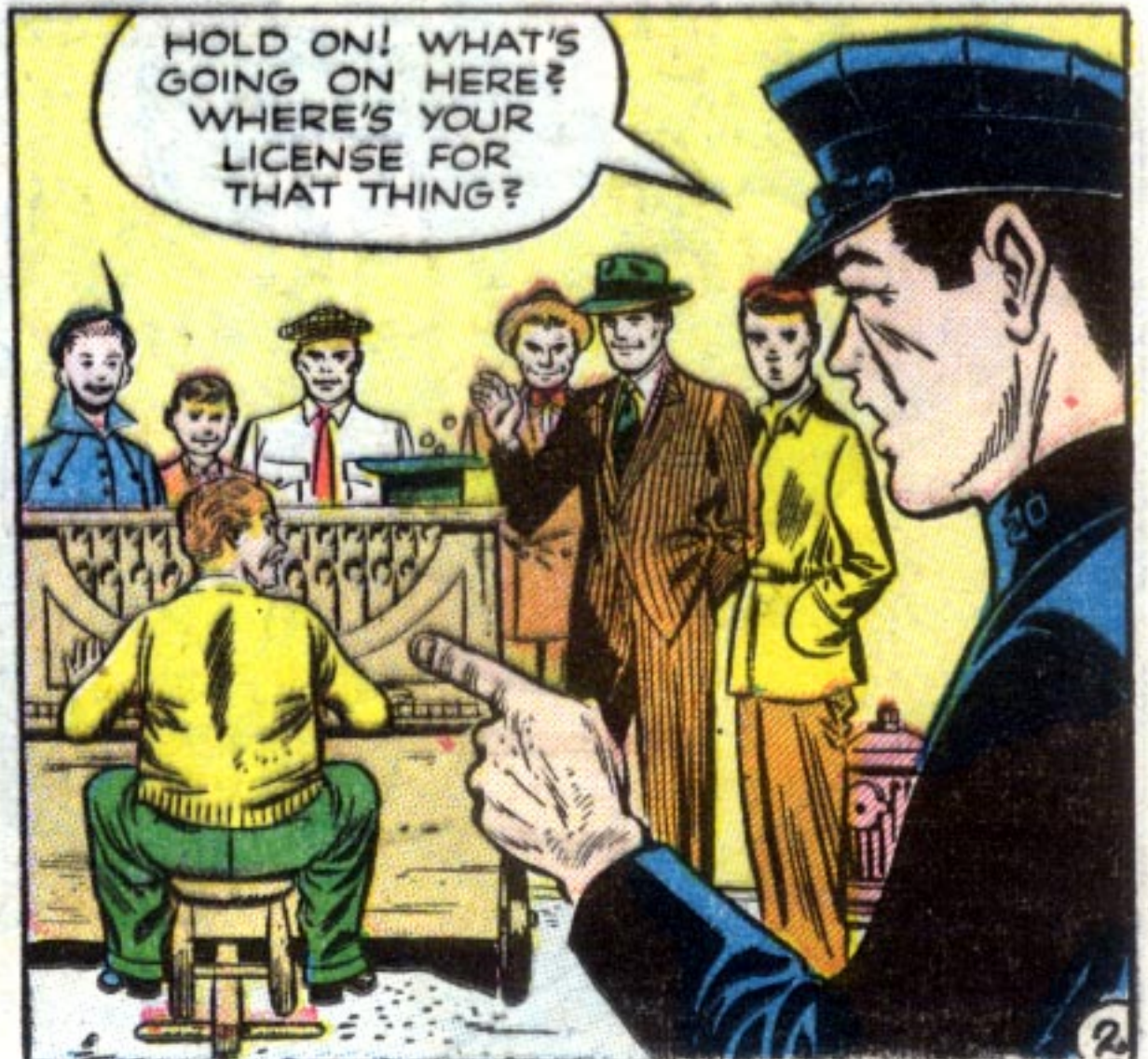
DAN'S A NICE OLD GUY, BUT HE SURE HAS OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS ABOUT POLICEWORK! NO WONDER THEY RETIRED HIM! AFTER ALL, LAWS ARE LAWS AND THEY'VE GOT TO BE OBEYED!



GUESS THIS'LL TEACH THESE PEOPLE THE DAY OF OVER-PARKING IS FINISHED! HMM... WHAT'S THAT MUSIC I HEAR? SOUNDS CLOSE BY!



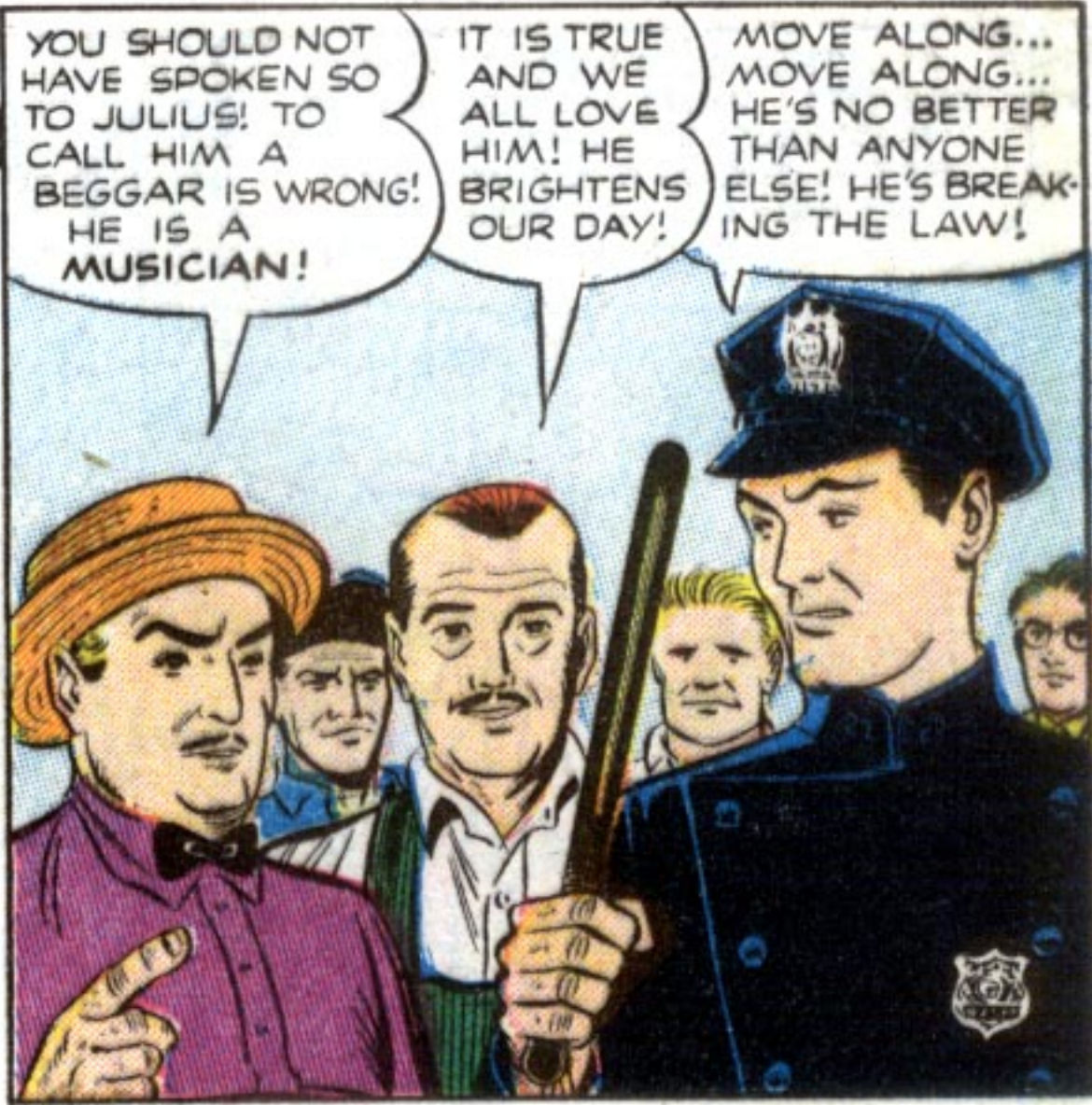
HOLD ON! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE'S YOUR LICENSE FOR THAT THING?





LICENSE? WHAT LICENSE? I GOT NO CAR! WHAT FOR DO I NEED A LICENSE? FOR TWENTY YEARS I HAVE NO LICENSE!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE! CITY ORDINANCE 5-7-204 SAYS BEGGARS, PEDDLERS PUSH-CART MEN AND SO FORTH HAVE TO HAVE A LICENSE! YOU GO DOWN TO CITY HALL AND GET ONE, OR I'LL GIVE YOU A SUMMONS!



YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN SO TO JULIUS! TO CALL HIM A BEGGAR IS WRONG! HE IS A MUSICIAN!

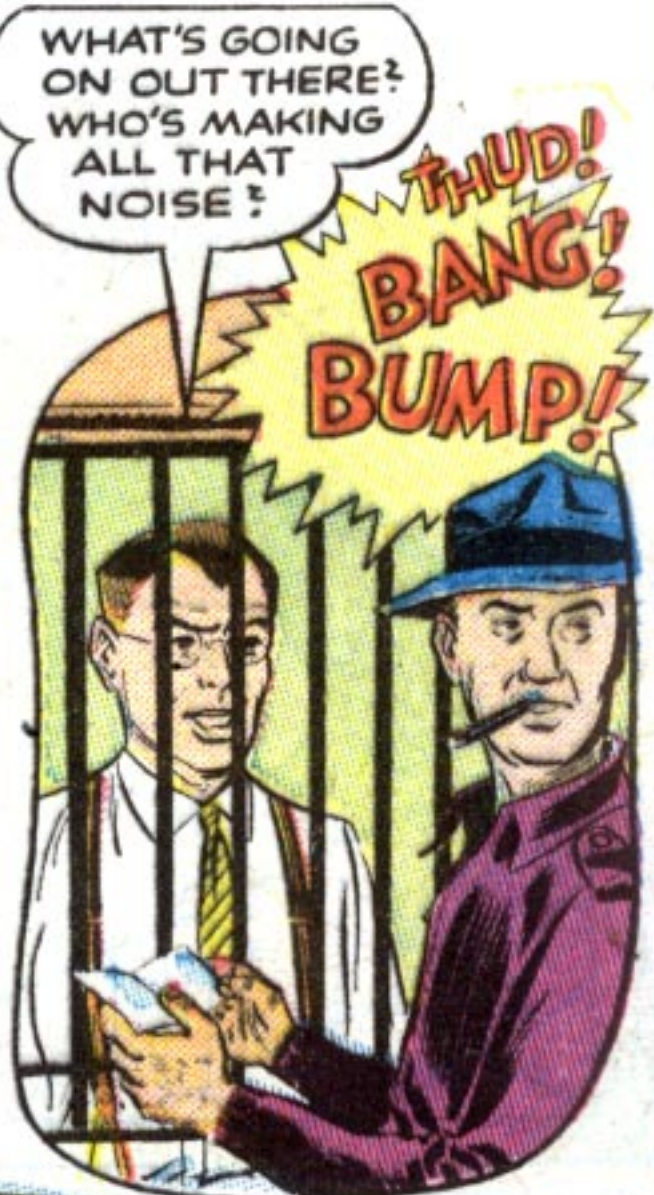
IT IS TRUE AND WE ALL LOVE HIM! HE BRIGHTENS OUR DAY!

MOVE ALONG... MOVE ALONG... HE'S NO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE! HE'S BREAKING THE LAW!



NEXT... WHERE IS YOUR INSTRUMENT? HOW CAN I LICENSE YOU UNLESS I SEE IT FIRST!

I DID NOT KNOW I HAD TO BRING IT WITH ME! I WILL GO AND GET IT!



WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE? WHO'S MAKING ALL THAT NOISE?

THUD!
BANG!
BUMP!



SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO LICENSE! WE HAVEN'T BEEN LICENSING THOSE FOR TEN YEARS! THEY'VE BEEN BANNED AS TRAFFIC OBSTRUCTIONS!

YOU TELL ME I MUST BRING IT HERE BEFORE YOU GIVE ME THE LICENSE! I DO LIKE YOU SAY!



HELP! THOSE MEN JUST ROBBED US! STOP THEM!

STEP ASIDE, FOLKS!



GET OUT OF THE WAY, WILL YOU!

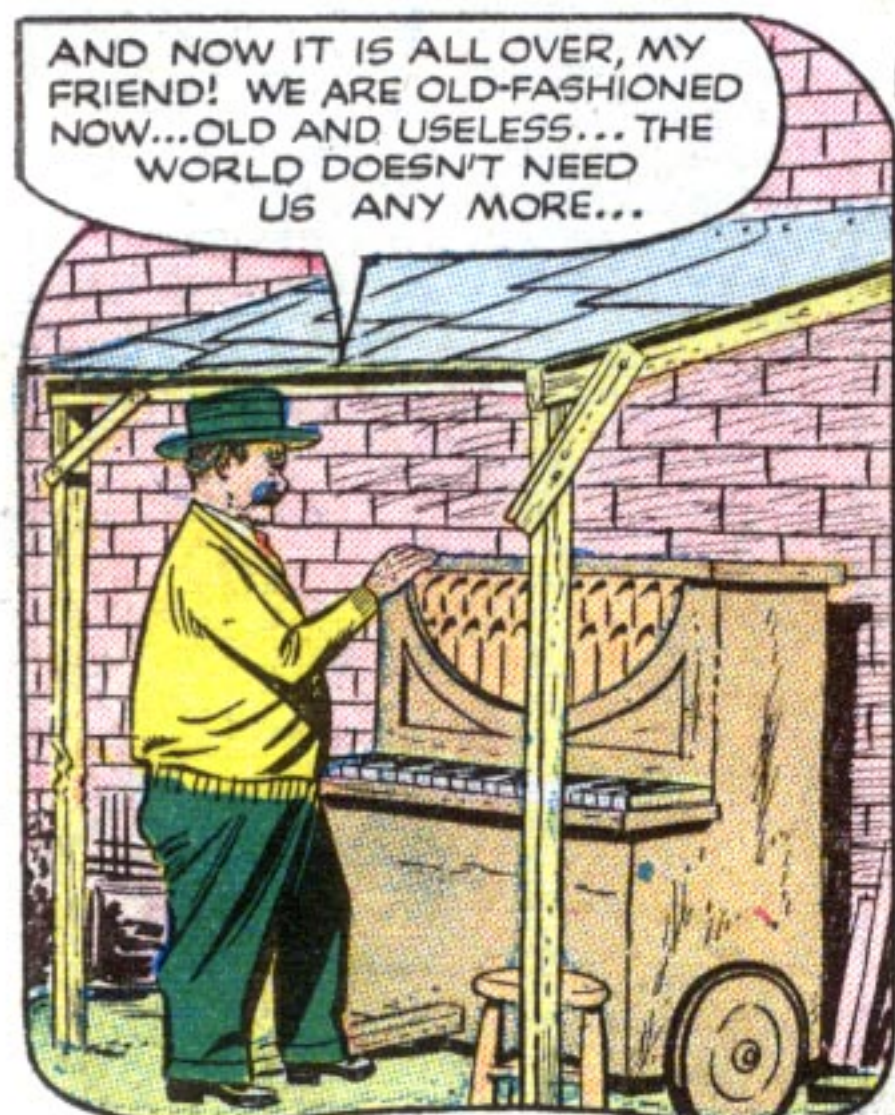
BANK ROBBERS! THEY STOLE \$10,000! WHY DOESN'T THAT POLICEMAN SHOOT THEM INSTEAD OF BLOWING HIS WHISTLE?



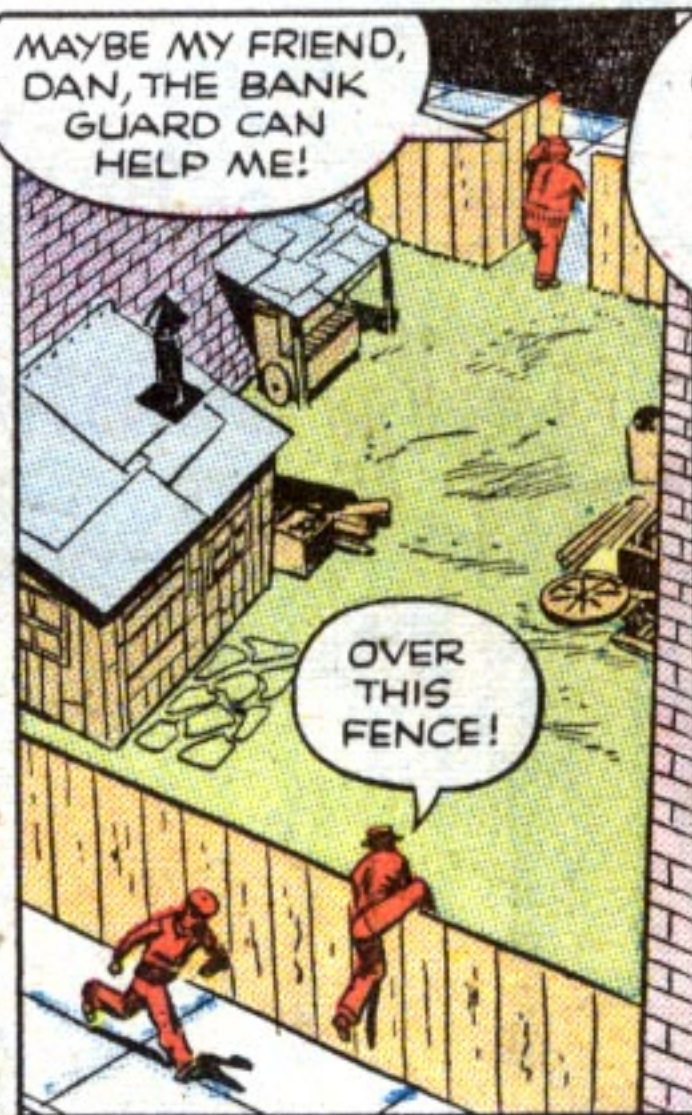
I'LL TELL YOU WHY I DIDN'T SHOOT! WITH ALL YOU FOLKS BLOCKING THE WAY, I COULDN'T GET A CLEAN SHOT WITHOUT HITTING ONE OF YOU! THEY GOT AWAY, THANKS TO YOU!



FOR THIRTY YEARS I WALKED THE STREETS PLAYING MY MUSIC! I SEE THE CHILDREN GROW UP! I PLAY TO THEIR CHILDREN!



AND NOW IT IS ALL OVER, MY FRIEND! WE ARE OLD-FASHIONED NOW... OLD AND USELESS... THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED US ANY MORE...



MAYBE MY FRIEND, DAN, THE BANK GUARD CAN HELP ME!

OVER THIS FENCE!



CREEPY, THAT COP'S RIGHT ON OUR HEELS! WE GOTTA FIND A PLACE TO STASH THIS TEN GS OR WE'RE SUNK!

WE'VE FOUND IT, ACE! LOOKIT HERE! WHO'D EVER THINK OF LOOKIN' IN THIS HEAP OF A BROKEN DOWN STREET ORGAN?



OFFICER... I AM GLAD I SEE YOU! ALWAYS DAN SAID "COME TO YOUR POLICEMAN IF YOU NEED HELP" THAT LICENSE... I TRY TO GET IT BUT...

YOU AGAIN! NOW LISTEN OLD MAN, I'VE NO TIME FOR YOUR TROUBLES! STOP PESTERING ME! I HAVE A ROBBERY ON MY HANDS!

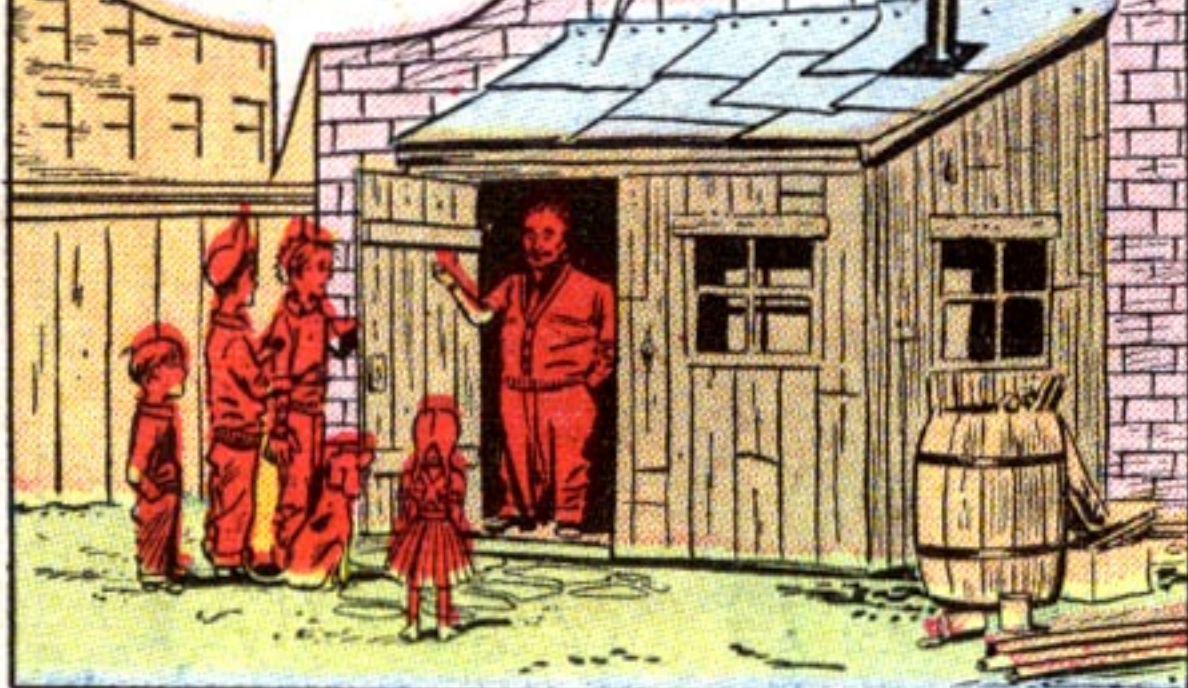


IT'S NO USE GOING TO SEE DAN! IF THIS POLICEMAN IS SO ANGRY WITH ME, DAN WILL ALSO BE! POLICEMEN STICK TOGETHER!

The Next Morning...

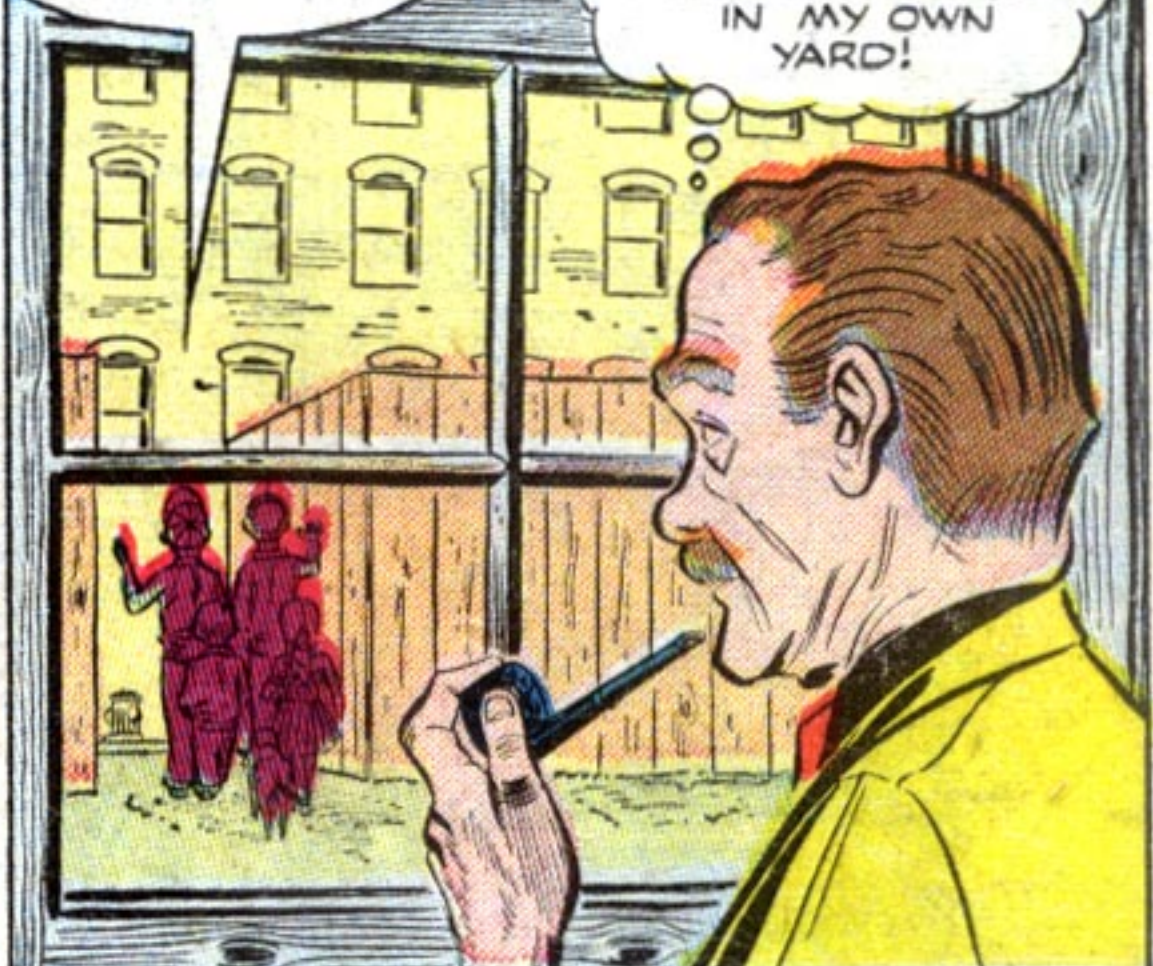
HELLO, JULIUS!
ARE YOU SICK?
GOSH, WHEN YOU
DIDN'T COME TO PLAY
LIKE YOU USUALLY
DO, WE GOT
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU!

IT IS AGAINST
THE LAW FOR ME
TO PLAY ON THE
STREETS.
ANY MORE!



WHAT KIND OF
A CRAZY LAW
IS THAT?

BUT THERE CAN'T
BE ANY LAW
AGAINST PLAYING
IN MY OWN
YARD!



SUCH
HORRIBLE
SOUNDS! WHAT
IS WRONG
WITH MY
ORGAN?

**SWAWK
URGHH!
UMPH**



SO! THERE'S SOMETHING IN... MONEY...
BUT HOW DID IT GET HERE? THINK WHAT
I COULD DO WITH ALL THIS CASH...
WHAT AM I THINKING! IT
WOULD BE WRONG! NO...
I WILL GO TO DAN
AND ASK HIM
WHAT TO DO!



YOU SAY YOU FOUND THIS IN YOUR STREET
ORGAN? WHY IT'S THE MONEY STOLEN
FROM THE BANK! JUST WAIT UNTIL I
BREAK THE NEWS TO DAVE! POOR LAD,
HIS PRECINCT CAPTAIN BLAMED HIM FOR
THE ESCAPE OF THOSE ROBBERS! AS
IF IT WERE HIS FAULT!

TRUST



IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO GET THE
MONEY BACK! I'D LIKE TO SEE
US NAB THE ROBBERS, TOO!
I THINK I COULD, WITH YOUR
HELP, JULIUS! THEY'LL BE
COMING BACK TO GET IT!

SURE! I
HELP! TELL
ME WHAT
TO DO! I'M
NOT
AFRAID!





LOOK—THERE IT IS NOW! I NEVER FIGURED ANYONE WAS USING THAT HUNK OF JUNK WHEN WE HID THE DOUGH IN THERE! NOW HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET AT IT?

RELAX! IT AIN'T SUCH A PROBLEM! WE'LL OFFER TO BUY THE DARN THING FROM HIM! FIFTY BUCKS'LL LOOK LIKE A GOLD MINE TO HIM!



NOW LOOK, MISTER, BE REASONABLE... FIFTY BUCKS IS A LOT OF MONEY FOR THAT BEAT UP OLD THING! WELL, OKAY, WE'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED!

NO, I CANNOT PART WITH IT!

NOW I GIVE THE SIGNAL! I HOPE DAN IS READY!



QUICK—HEAD 'EM OFF, DAVE!

TH' COPS! THEY'RE WISE TO US!

GET YOUR HANDS UP OR I'LL SHOOT!



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS TO ME! THEY WERE GOING TO TRANSFER ME TO A BEAT IN THE STICKS... BUT NOW THAT WE CAUGHT THESE CROOKS, THEY'LL GIVE ME A PROMOTION!

I'M GLAD! BUT I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER MY ADVICE THIS TIME! YOU'VE HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE BY BEING SO EXACTING! THANKS TO YOU, JULIUS CAN'T PLAY HIS ORGAN ANY MORE!



I'M SORRY... I'M REALLY SORRY! I KNOW I OVERDID THINGS! I WISH I HADN'T... NOW I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE TO PATCH THINGS UP!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! DAN, HE HAS GOTTEN ME A JOB WORKING WITH HIM AS BANK GUARD! I GIVE MY ORGAN TO THE KIDS FREE!

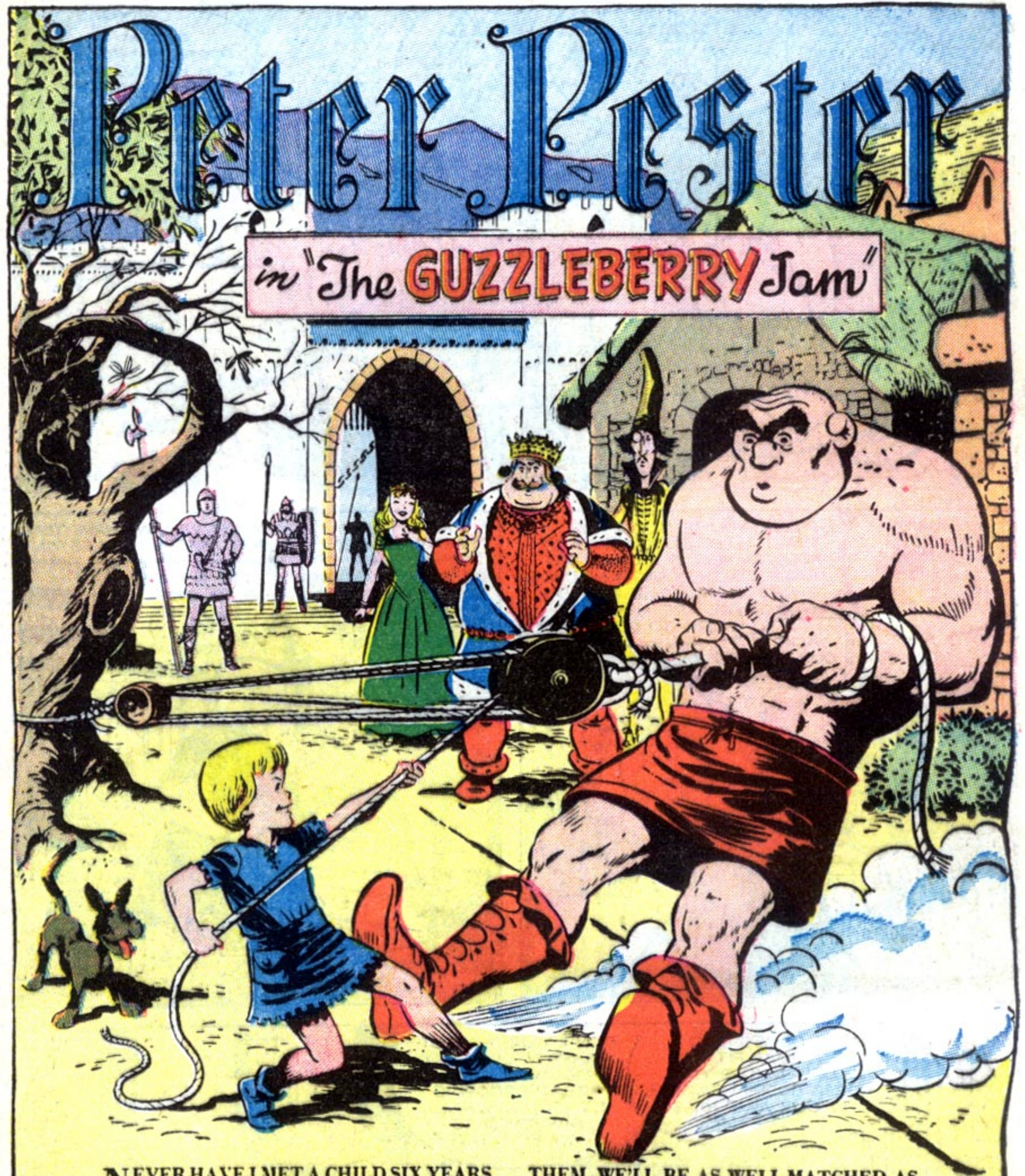


ME, TOO, OFFICER DOLAN! CAN I HAVE ONE, TOO?

SURE, YOU CAN! HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU KIDS?

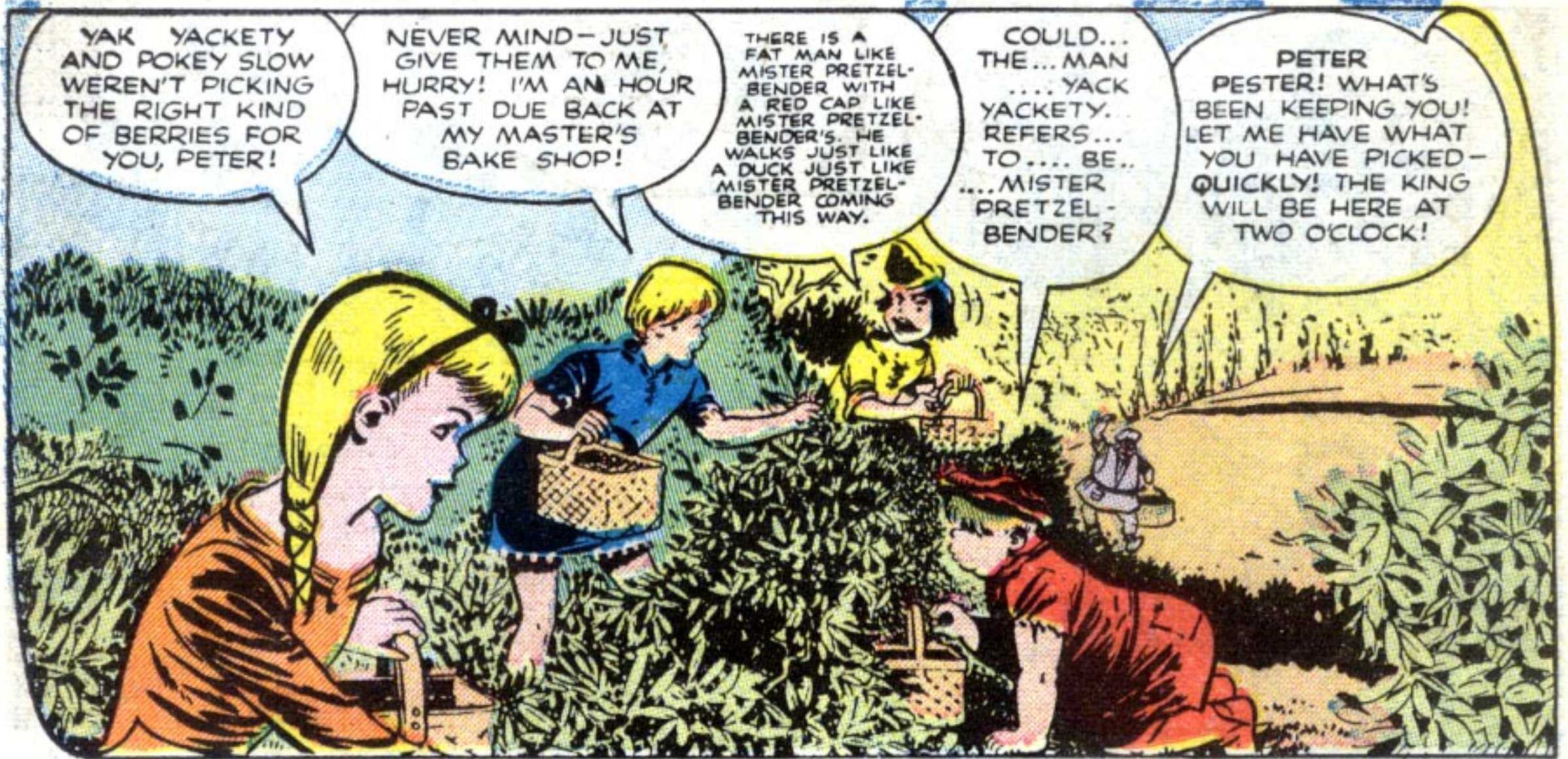
HE WILL BE ALL RIGHT! HE IS ONE OF US—LIKE YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE POLICEMAN, DAN! HE REMINDS ME NOW OF YOU!

The End.



NEVER HAVE I MET A CHILD SIX YEARS OLD OR SIXTY WHO DIDN'T ENJOY THE ONCE-UPON-A-TIME STORY. THERE'D BE MANY MORE OF THEM HEARD, GOODNESS KNOWS, IF MORE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO TELL THEM. IT SEEMS MOST EVERYONE WOULD RATHER HEAR THEM. HERE ARE A FEW JUST AS APPETIZERS. IF YOU LIKE TO HEAR THEM AS I LIKE TO TELL

THEM, WE'LL BE AS WELL-MATCHED AS PANCAKES AND SYRUP. GET COMFY, GET COZY, FOR THOU-ART-NOW-AT-THIS-VERY-MOMENT IN A STORY WORLD OF PRINCESSES, OF KINGS, OF ARMOR AND JESTERS AND PETER PESTERS. YOUR LIPS AND TONGUE ARE DEEP PURPLE, MADE SO BY THE DELICIOUS AND DRIPPING JUICE OF THE BLACK-BERRIES ON BUSHYFRUIT HILL.



YAK YACKETY AND POKEY SLOW WEREN'T PICKING THE RIGHT KIND OF BERRIES FOR YOU, PETER!

NEVER MIND—JUST GIVE THEM TO ME, HURRY! I'M AN HOUR PAST DUE BACK AT MY MASTER'S BAKE SHOP!

THERE IS A FAT MAN LIKE MISTER PRETZEL-BENDER WITH A RED CAP LIKE MISTER PRETZEL-BENDER'S. HE WALKS JUST LIKE A DUCK JUST LIKE MISTER PRETZEL-BENDER COMING THIS WAY.

COULD... THE... MAN ... YACK YACKETY. REFERS... TO.... BE.. ...MISTER PRETZEL-BENDER?

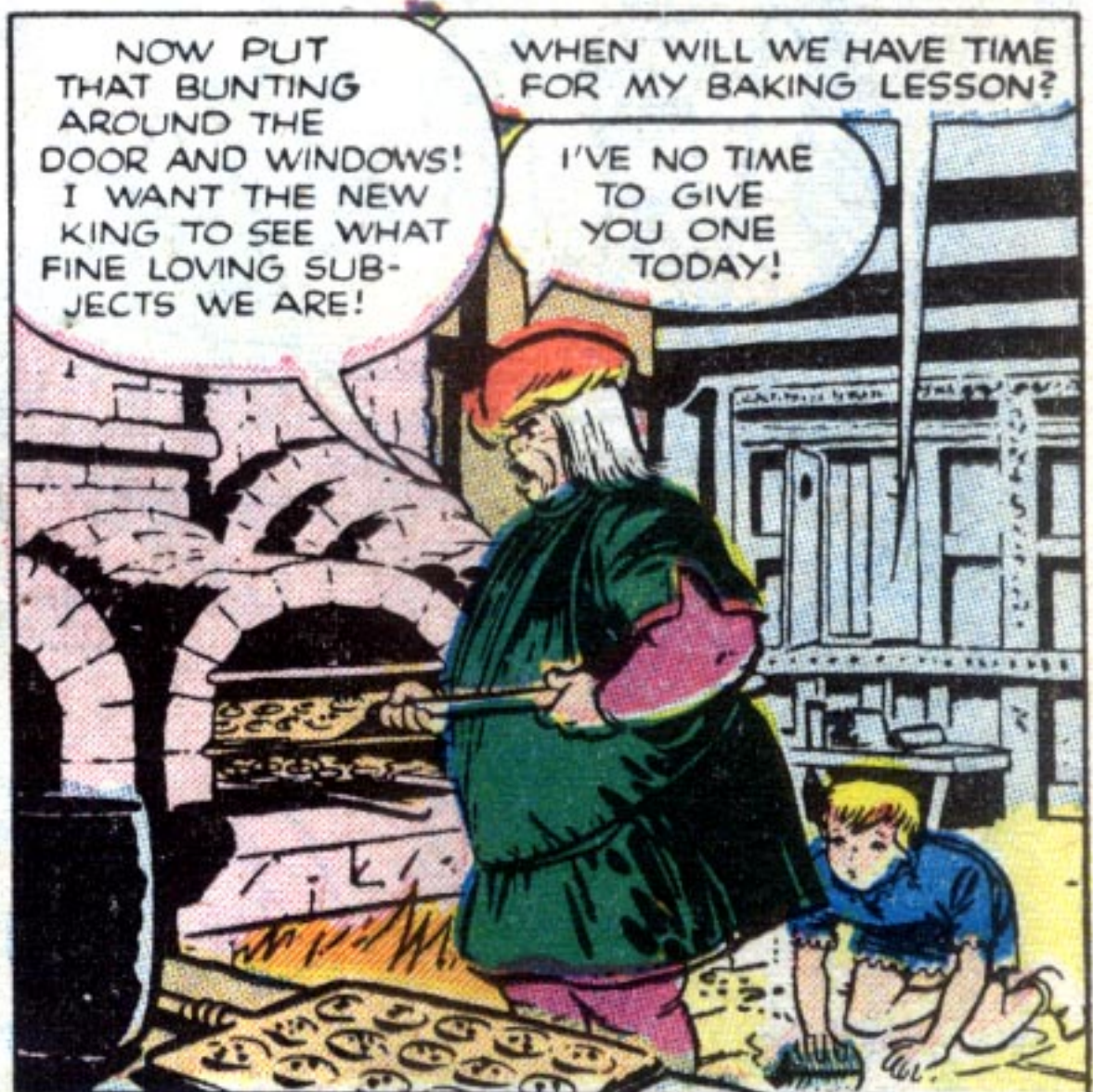
PETER PESTER! WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU! LET ME HAVE WHAT YOU HAVE PICKED—QUICKLY! THE KING WILL BE HERE AT TWO O'CLOCK!



MY BASKET IS FULL. POKEY SLOW'S BASKET IS FULL. GINGER PEACHY'S BASKET IS FULL AND PETER PESTER'S BASKET IS FULL.

PETER, YOU'RE NEVER ON TIME! I'D SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR FATHER IF I COULD GET HALF OF THE SILVER HE OWES ME! NOW...COME ALONG—THERE ARE HOURS OF WORK TO DO!

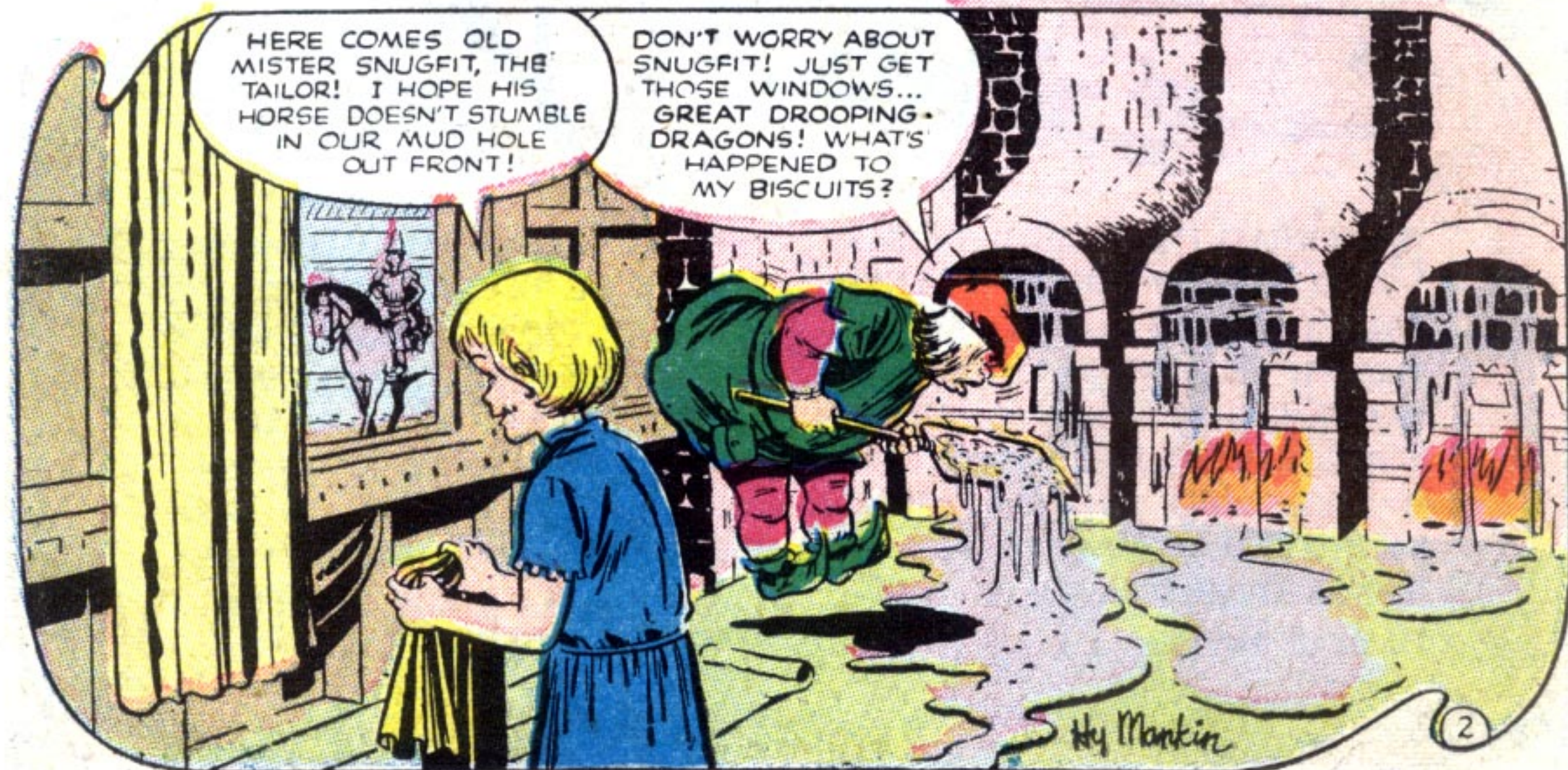
YAK YACKETY MEANS OUR BASKETS ARE FULL!



NOW PUT THAT BUNTING AROUND THE DOOR AND WINDOWS! I WANT THE NEW KING TO SEE WHAT FINE LOVING SUBJECTS WE ARE!

WHEN WILL WE HAVE TIME FOR MY BAKING LESSON?

I'VE NO TIME TO GIVE YOU ONE TODAY!



HERE COMES OLD MISTER SNUGFIT, THE TAILOR! I HOPE HIS HORSE DOESN'T STUMBLE IN OUR MUD HOLE OUT FRONT!

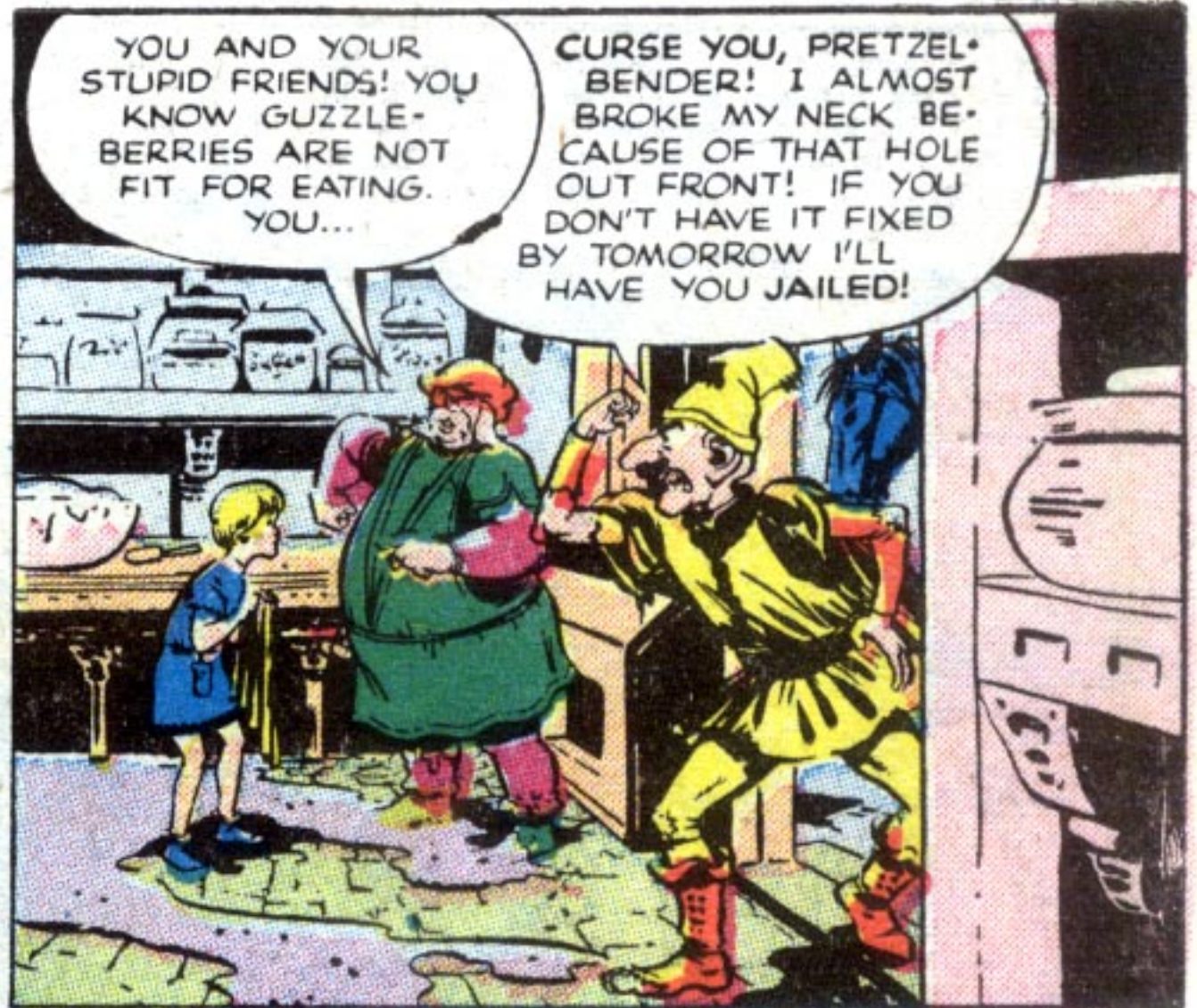
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SNUGFIT! JUST GET THOSE WINDOWS... GREAT DROOPING DRAGONS! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY BISCUITS?

Hy Mankin



THIS MUST BE YOUR FAULT, PETER... WAIT! THOSE BERRIES! YOU IGNORAMUS! THEY'RE NOT BLACKBERRIES... THEY'RE GUZZLE-BERRIES!!

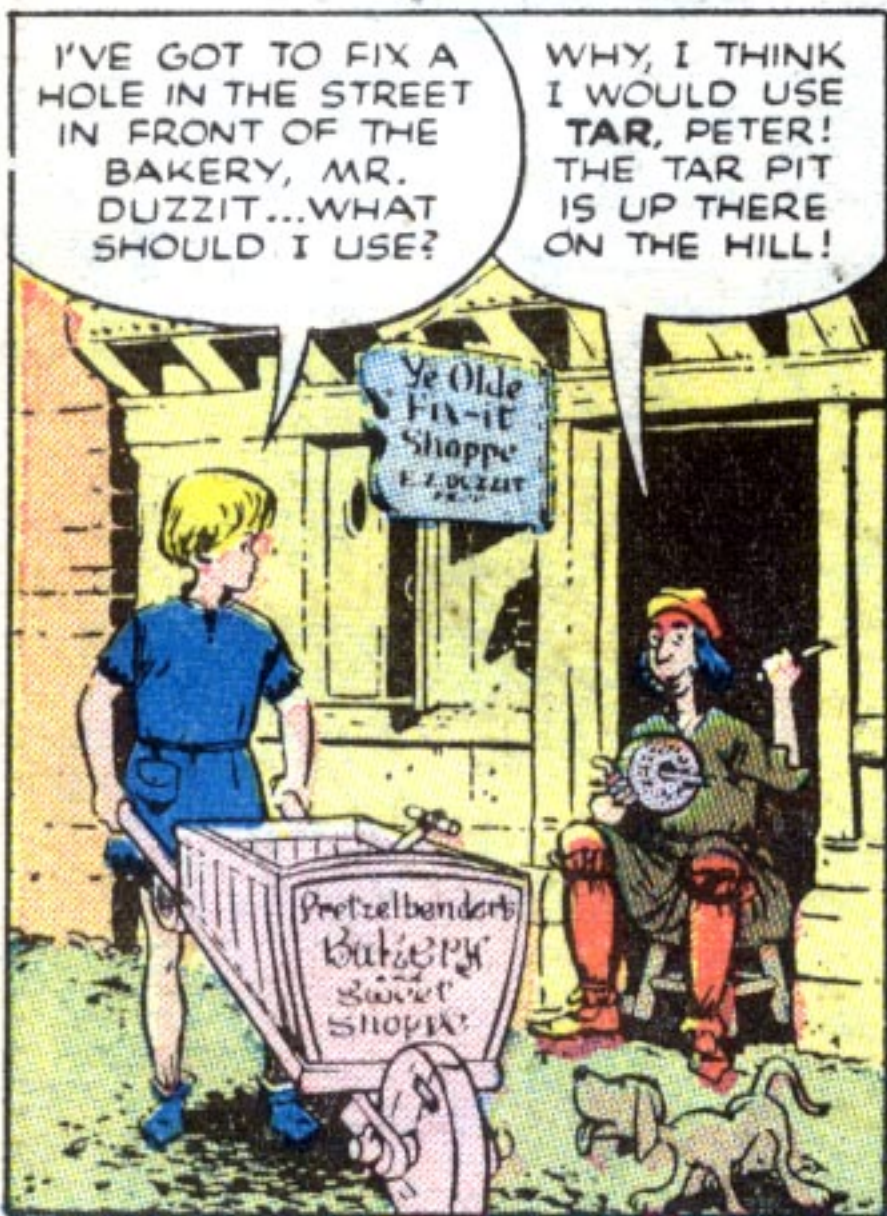
I SAY THERE, PRANCER! WHAT... WHOOPS!



YOU AND YOUR STUPID FRIENDS! YOU KNOW GUZZLE-BERRIES ARE NOT FIT FOR EATING. YOU...

CURSE YOU, PRETZEL-BENDER! I ALMOST BROKE MY NECK BECAUSE OF THAT HOLE OUT FRONT! IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT FIXED BY TOMORROW I'LL HAVE YOU JAILED!

Meanwhile, let's look in on the man who's causing all this trouble... Rolly, the new king of Gladiola...



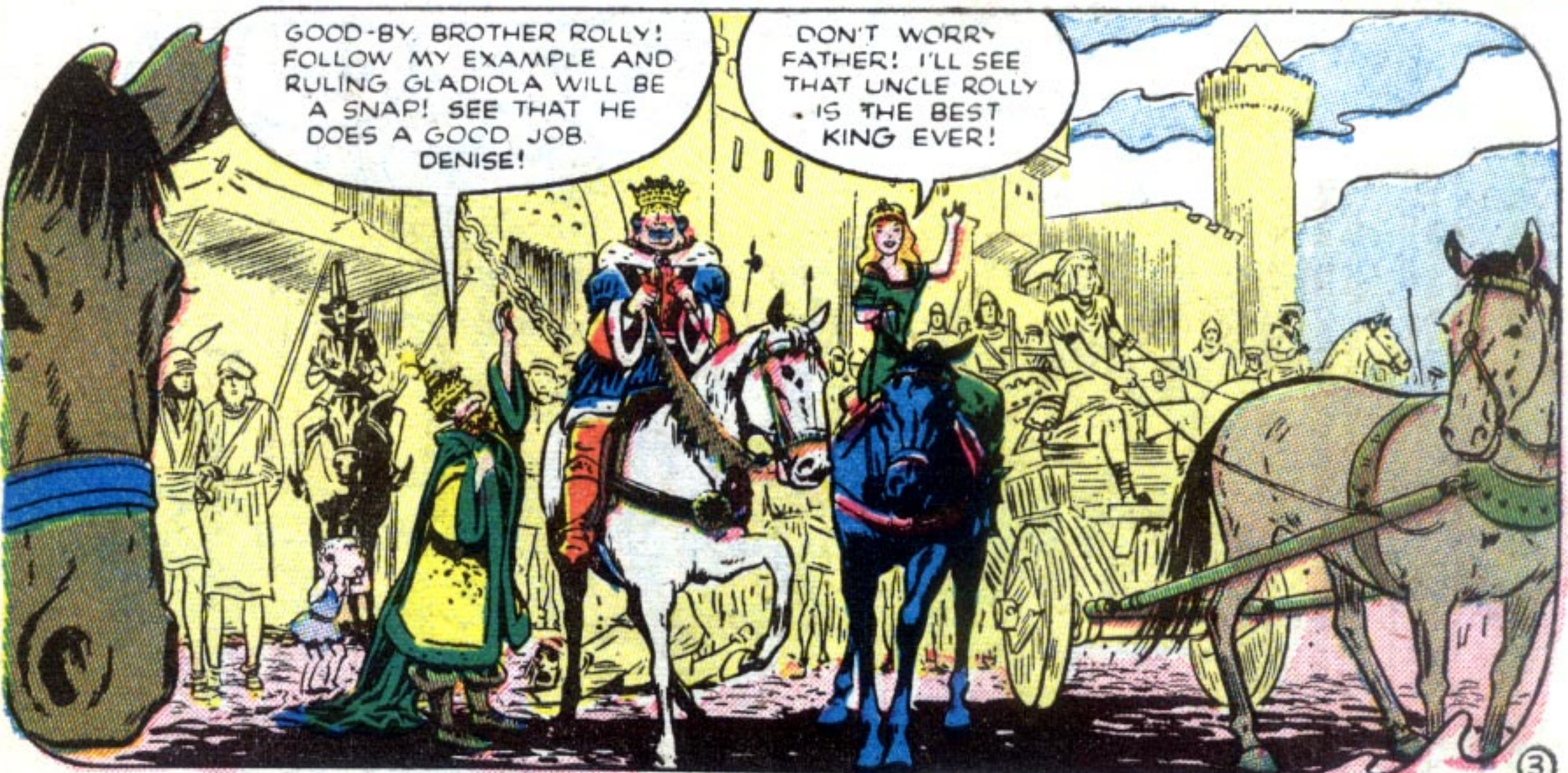
I'VE GOT TO FIX A HOLE IN THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE BAKERY, MR. DUZZIT...WHAT SHOULD I USE?

WHY, I THINK I WOULD USE TAR, PETER! THE TAR PIT IS UP THERE ON THE HILL!



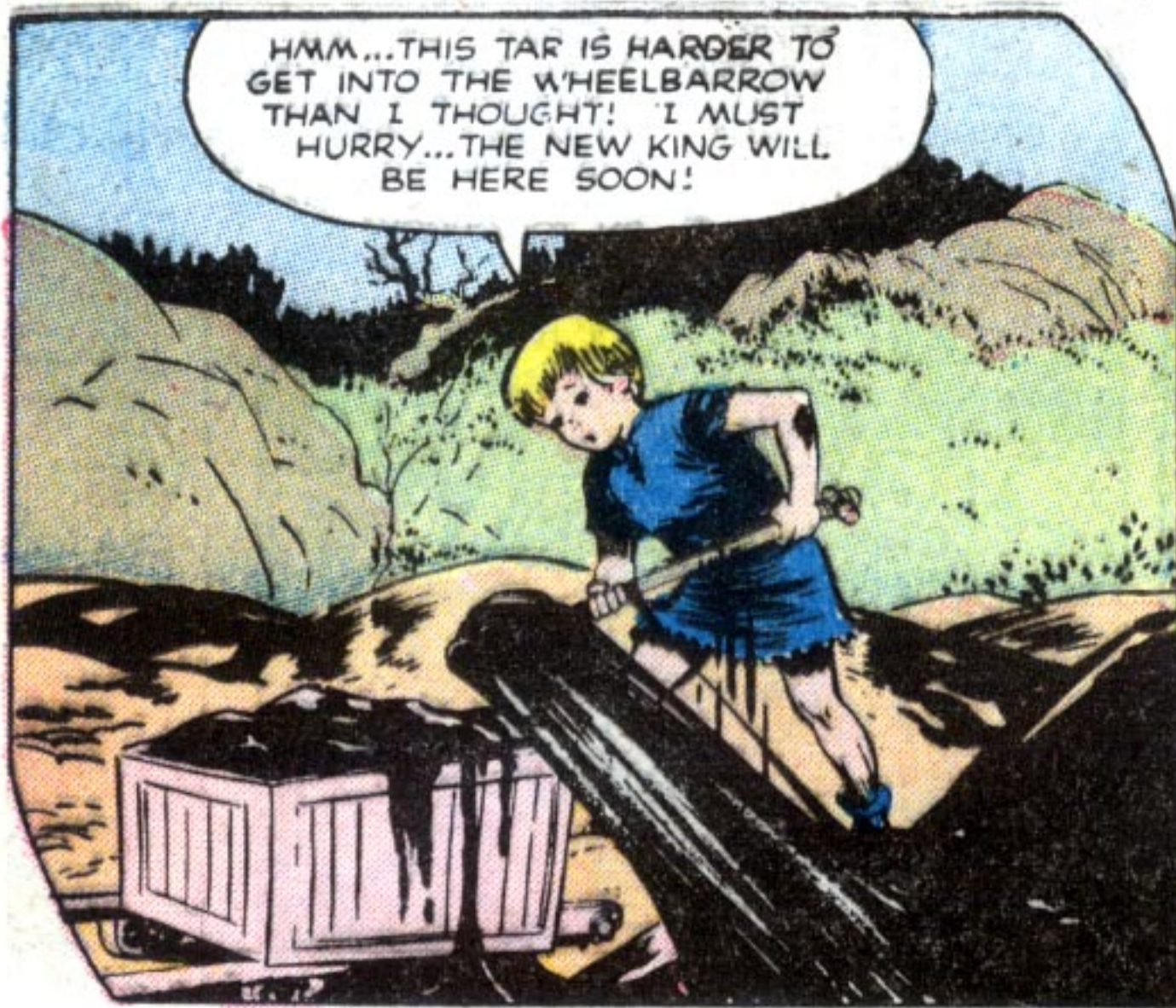
HAVE YOU ANY FINAL ADVICE, KING GROUSE? BEFORE I GO?

NO, YOUNG BROTHER, JUST REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR PEOPLE SOMETHING TO HOPE FOR --- THEN THEY WILL BE HAPPY SUBJECTS AS THEY ARE NOW --- LOOK!

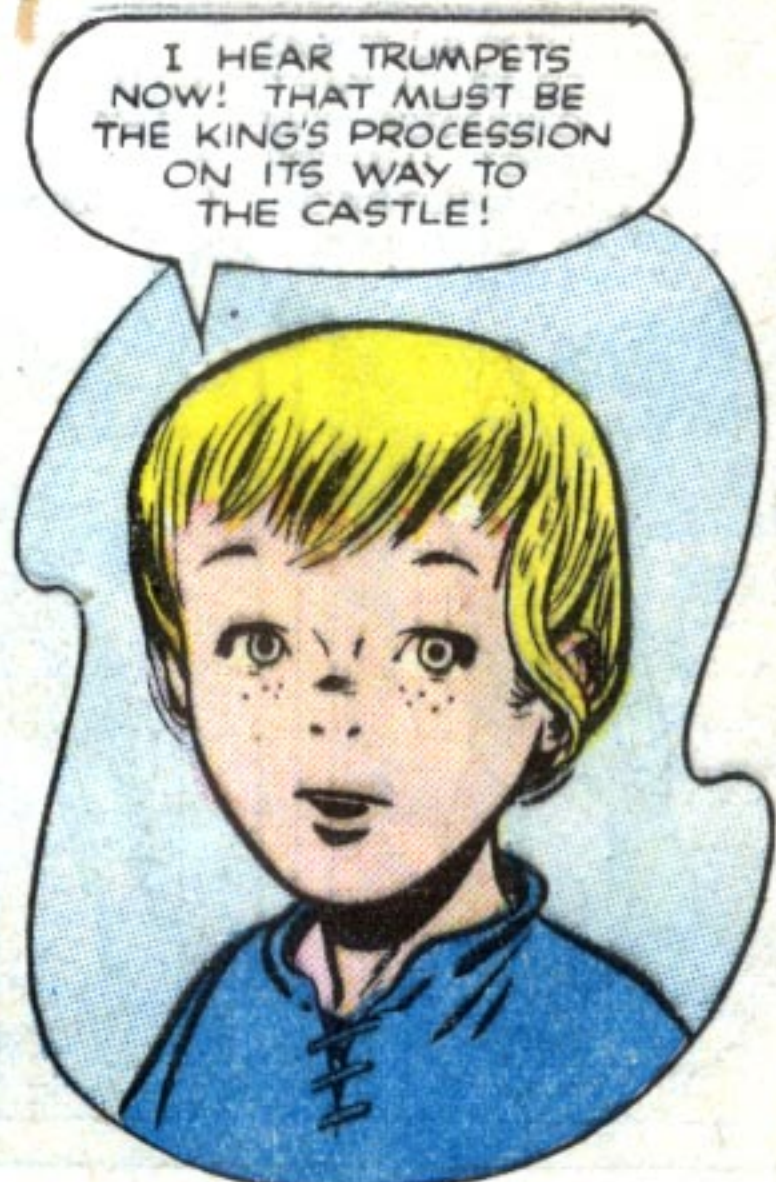


GOOD-BY, BROTHER ROLLY! FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE AND RULING GLADIOLA WILL BE A SNAP! SEE THAT HE DOES A GOOD JOB. DENISE!

DON'T WORRY FATHER! I'LL SEE THAT UNCLE ROLLY IS THE BEST KING EVER!



HMM...THIS TAR IS HARDER TO GET INTO THE WHEELBARROW THAN I THOUGHT! I MUST HURRY...THE NEW KING WILL BE HERE SOON!



I HEAR TRUMPETS NOW! THAT MUST BE THE KING'S PROCESSION ON ITS WAY TO THE CASTLE!



THEY'LL PASS THE BAKERY IN A FEW MINUTES...IF I DON'T GET THAT HOLE FIXED FIRST, MR. PRETZELBENDER WILL SKIN ME ALIVE!



PETER! COME BACK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE KING IS COMING!

I...I CAN'T! I'M GOING TOO FAST!



WHO GOETH... WHOOPS!

HALT!

WHAT'S THIS?

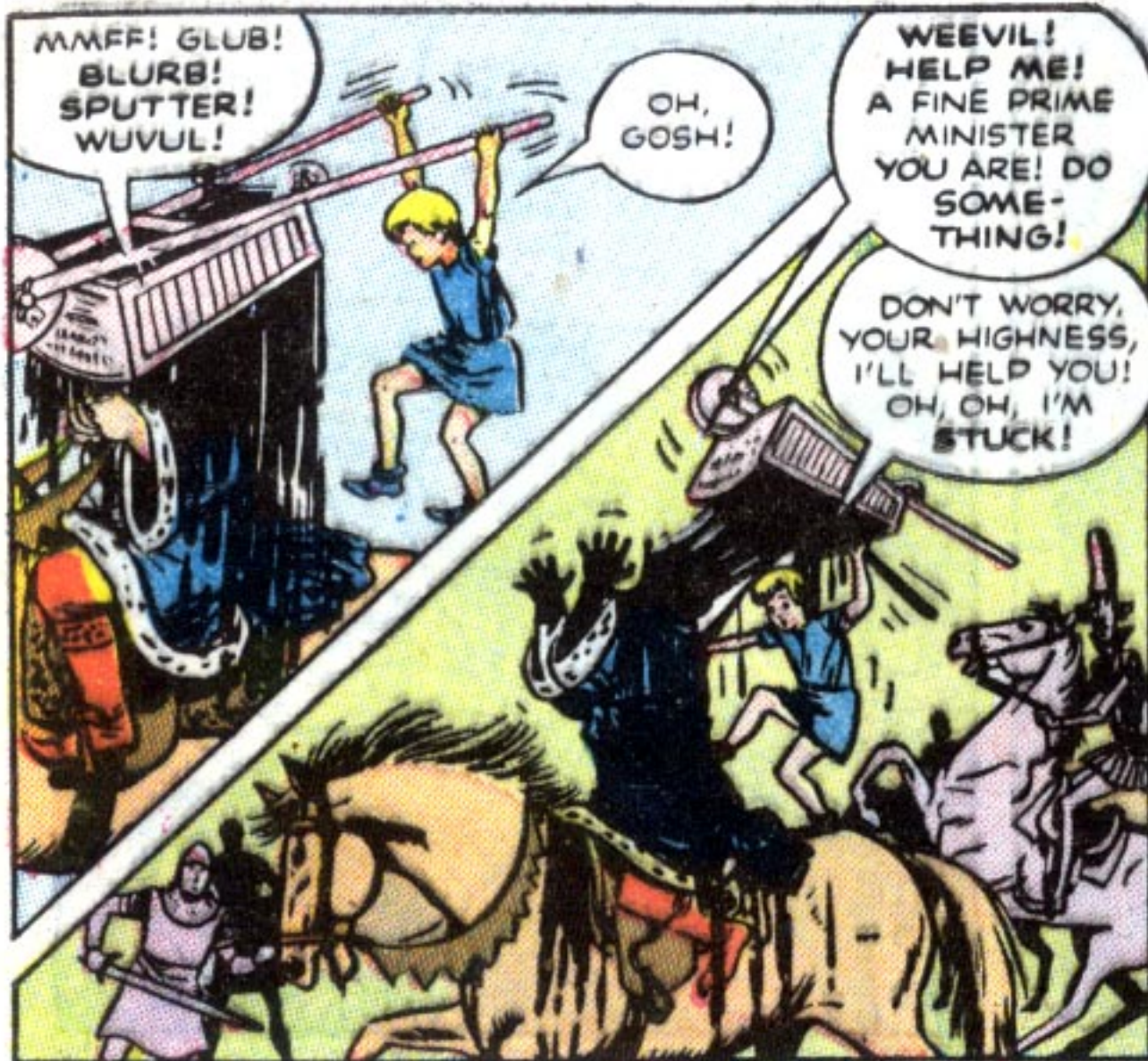
ZOUNDS!!

EEKK!!

A BLOOMIN' MONSTER!

CONFOUND!

OH, I SAY...



MMFF! GLUB!
BLURB!
SPUTTER!
WUVUL!

OH,
GOSH!

WEEVIL!
HELP ME!
A FINE PRIME
MINISTER
YOU ARE! DO
SOME-
THING!

DON'T WORRY,
YOUR HIGHNESS,
I'LL HELP YOU!
OH, OH, I'M
STUCK!



EVERYONE
STOP THAT
BLASTED
LAUGHING
AND GET
ME TO THE
CASTLE!
HARUMF!

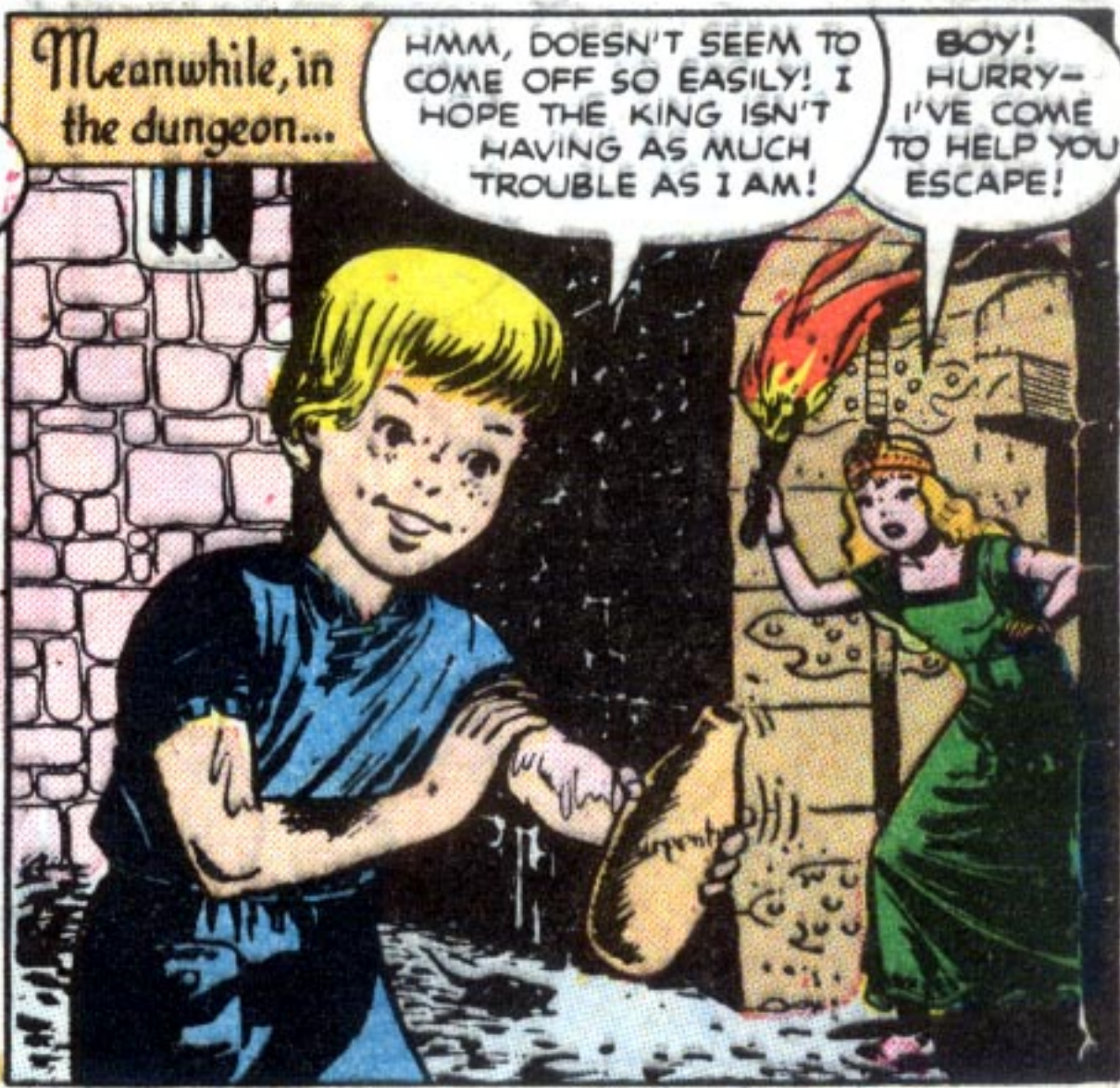
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, YOUNG MAN!
YOU'VE HUMILIATED THE KING AND
RUINED HIS
ENTRANCE TO
GLADIOLA!

I WAS GOING TO
FIX THE HOLE...THAT
IS, ER, I WAS LATE
BECAUSE OF THE BERRIES...



YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT BOY IS LOCKED
UP SECURELY, WEEVIL? I'LL GET TO
HIM LATER! YEEOOOWW! DON'T
TAKE OFF MY SKIN! YOU HEAR
THAT, WEEVIL? WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF HIM IN THE
MORNING!

YES, SIR!
LOCKED UP...
TAKE OFF
SKIN...DUNGEON...
TAKE CARE...
MORNING...
YES, SIR!



Meanwhile, in
the dungeon...

HMM, DOESN'T SEEM TO
COME OFF SO EASILY! I
HOPE THE KING ISN'T
HAVING AS MUCH
TROUBLE AS I AM!

BOY!
HURRY--
I'VE COME
TO HELP YOU
ESCAPE!



THE GUARDS WILL PASS DOWN
TO THE END OF THE WALK,
THEN RUN FOR THE MOAT
BRIDGE! WHAT IS
YOUR NAME?

PETER PESTER!
AND THANK YOU
PRINCESS DENISE.
I WILL SEND YOU
A FINE CAKE.



AH, THERE, WEEVIL! IS
EVERYTHING READY?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

WHY, I...ER... WELL, THE
FACT IS, KING ROLLY...
THE YOUNG MAN
SEEMS TO HAVE...
ER...ESCAPED!



ESCAPED? DO YOU MEAN YOU HAVE LET HIM ESCAPE? OH, NO! NO! NO! NO! WELL, DON'T STAND THERE! CALL THE GUARDS! GO AFTER HIM!

UNCLE ROLLY! MAY I SPEAK?



WAIT, UNCLE ROLLY, THINK HOW YOUR PEOPLE WILL FEEL! THEY LIKE THE BOY! IF YOU LET HIM GO, THEY'LL THINK YOU'RE A KIND KING! THEY'LL LOVE YOU FOR IT!

WELL...HUMFF! PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, DENISE! IF YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD DO!



WEEVIL! LET'S INVENT SOME IMPOSSIBLE TASKS FOR MY SUBJECTS! WE WILL OFFER SOME GOLD AND THE HAND OF PRINCESS DENISE TO ANYONE WHO SUCCEEDS. WE MUST TAKE CARE, HOWEVER, THAT NO ONE WILL PERFORM THE TASKS!

I HAVE IT! WE COULD TELL THEM TO BUILD A LADDER TO THE VERY TOP OF THE HIGHEST CASTLE TOWER...THAT'S OVER ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY METERS... I THINK!

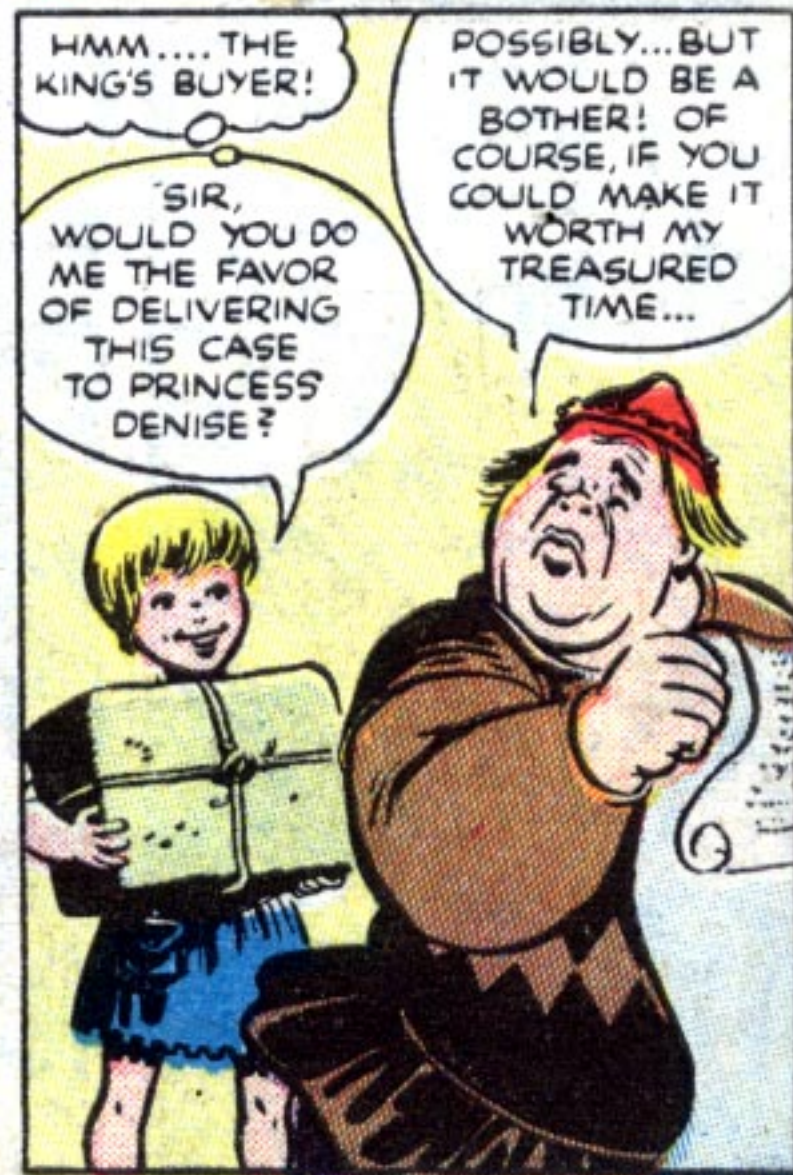


SPLENDID! ANOTHER COULD BE TO LEAP ACROSS THE CASTLE MOAT-IT'S FIFTY METERS WIDE! AND ANOTHER WILL BE TO BEAT MY ROYAL WRESTLER IN COMBAT-HE'S EIGHT FEET TALL!

VERY WISE! YOUR PEOPLE WILL KNOW OF YOUR GENEROSITY YET TONIGHT!



HER CAKE IS DONE! I'LL PUT MY NOTE OF THANKS RIGHT IN THE BOX! BUT HOW WILL I GET IT TO HER?



HMM.... THE KING'S BUYER!

SIR, WOULD YOU DO ME THE FAVOR OF DELIVERING THIS CASE TO PRINCESS DENISE?

POSSIBLY...BUT IT WOULD BE A BOTHER! OF COURSE, IF YOU COULD MAKE IT WORTH MY TREASURED TIME...



ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL DO IT! I STILL HAVE LAST MONTH'S WAGE... A SILVER PIECE! I HOPE THAT'S ENOUGH!

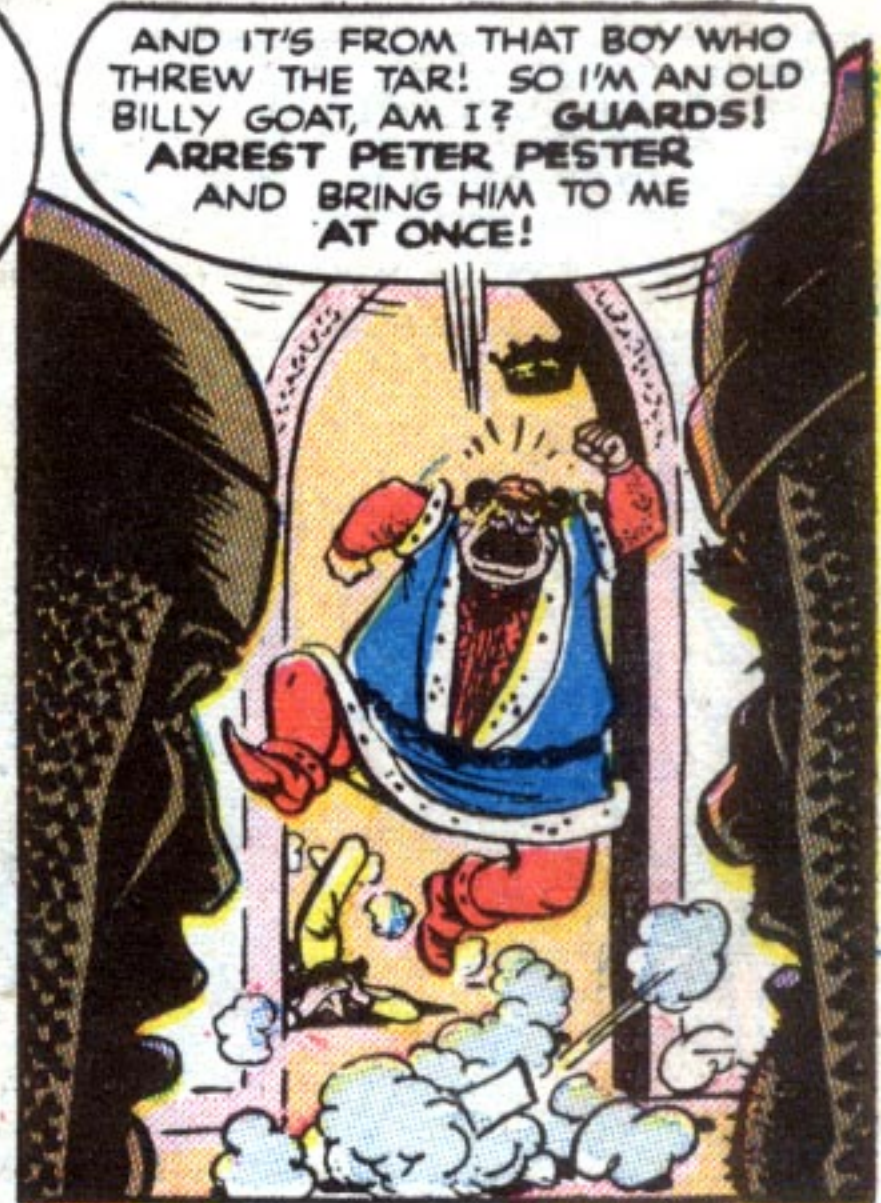


...AND THESE ARE THE ROYAL KITCHENS, YOUR MAJESTY! THIS IS YOUR STAFF OF CHEFS AND BAKERS—THE FINEST IN THE KINGDOM!

EXCELLENT...**WHAT HO!** THIS CAKE! HMM...A NOTE... HMM... "TO DENISE: I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET INTO TROUBLE..."



...WITH YOUR TYRANT UNCLE. THANKS FOR SAVING ME FROM THE OLD BILLY GOAT." SIGNED, "PETER PESTER." HE MEANS **ME!!**



AND IT'S FROM THAT BOY WHO THREW THE TAR! SO I'M AN OLD BILLY GOAT, AM I? **GUARDS! ARREST PETER PESTER AND BRING HIM TO ME AT ONCE!**



EVERYONE HAS GONE CRAZY! THOSE MEN ARE TRYING TO JUMP THE MOAT... THEY'LL DROWN!

OOHH... AND THAT LADDER IS BREAKING!

YES AND LOOK AT THOSE BIG WRESTLERS JUMPING! I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE DOING!



HALT! HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN PETER PESTER?

I SAW PETER YESTERDAY. I SAW PETER THIS MORNING. I SAW PETER IN CHURCH LAST SUNDAY. I SAW HIM AT BUSHY FRUIT HILL.

HE MEANS WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM, **HAVE WE, PETER?**



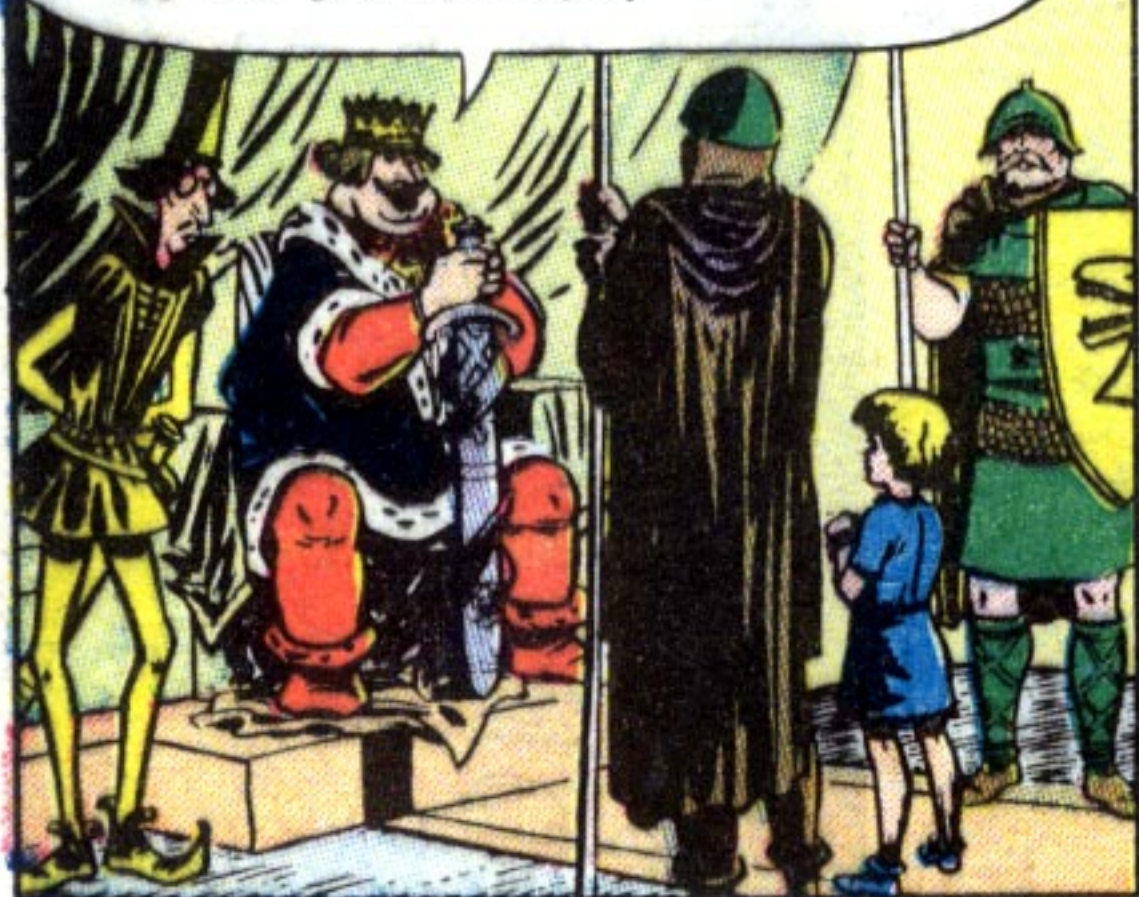
DID HE CALL YOU **PETER?** BRING THAT ROPE, MEN!

POKEY! WILL YOU NEVER LEARN TO KEEP QUIET?



THEY'VE ARRESTED PETER! I WONDER IF THEY KNOW HE WORKS FOR ME? IF THEY BLAME ME, I'LL LOSE THE KING'S BAKERY BUSINESS...AND MAYBE... MY HEAD!

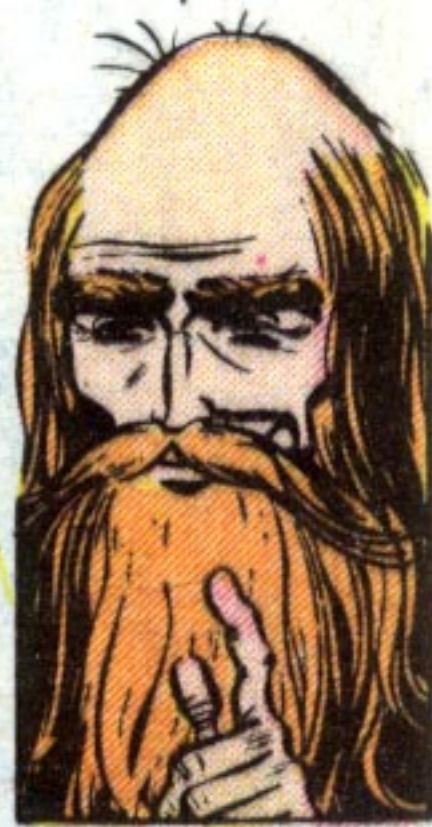
FOR MY NIECE'S SAKE, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE FOR YOUR LIFE! IF YOU CAN BEST THOG, MY WRESTLER, IN A TUG-OF-WAR, YOU WILL GO FREE AND I'LL GIVE YOU MUCH GOLD AND THE HAND OF THE PRINCESS! IF YOU FAIL, IT'LL BE TOO BAD FOR YOU!



OH, MR. ISON! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! YOU'RE THE WISEST MAN! I MUST WIN A TUG-OF-WAR WITH THE KING'S GIANT WRESTLER.



A TUG-OF-WAR YOU SAY! HMM... NOW THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO DIFFICULT!



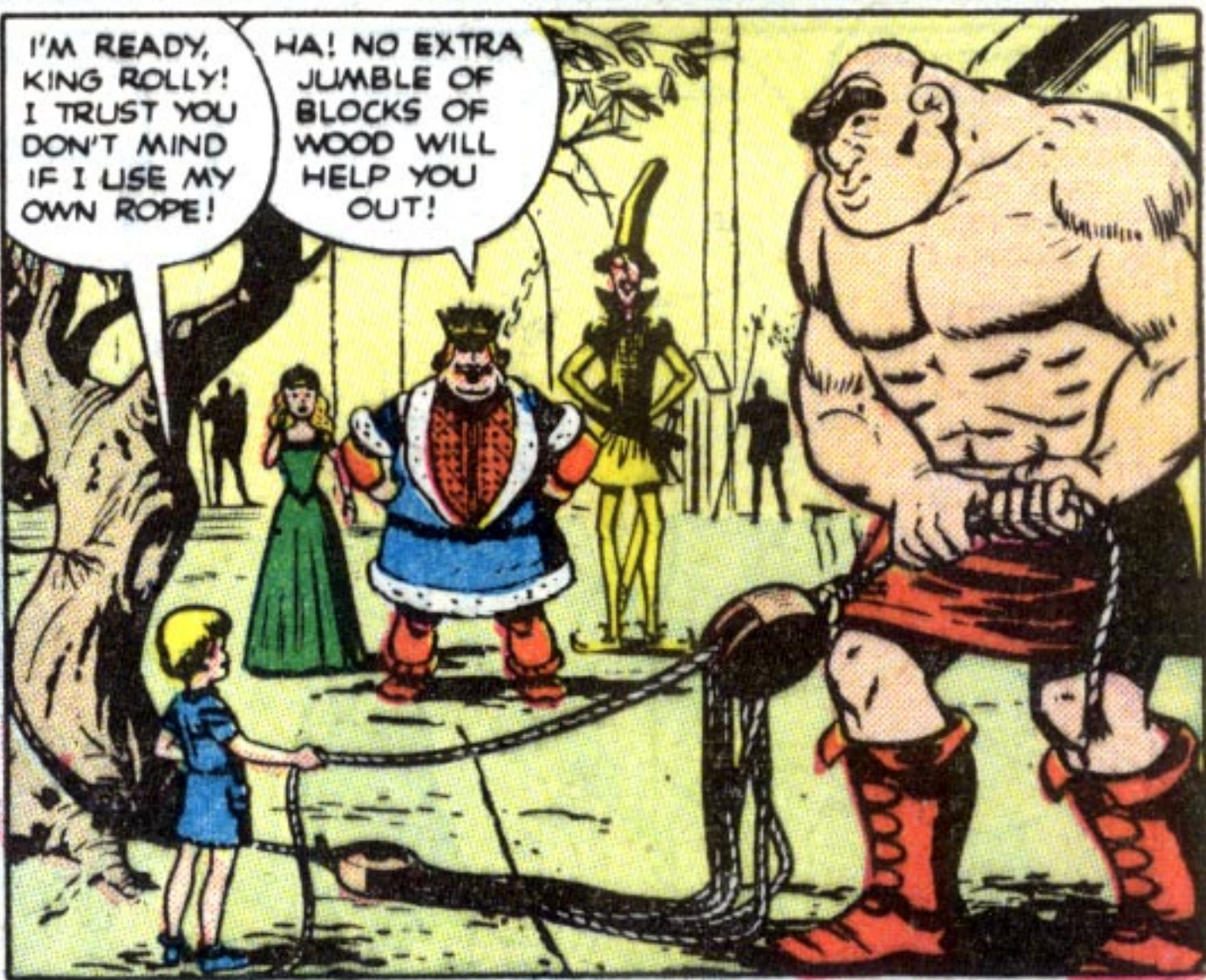
HERE—I CALL THIS A BLOCK AND TACKLE! THE ARRANGEMENT OF PULLEYS ENABLES YOU TO PULL MANY TIMES YOUR WEIGHT!

I'LL DO AS YOU TEACH!



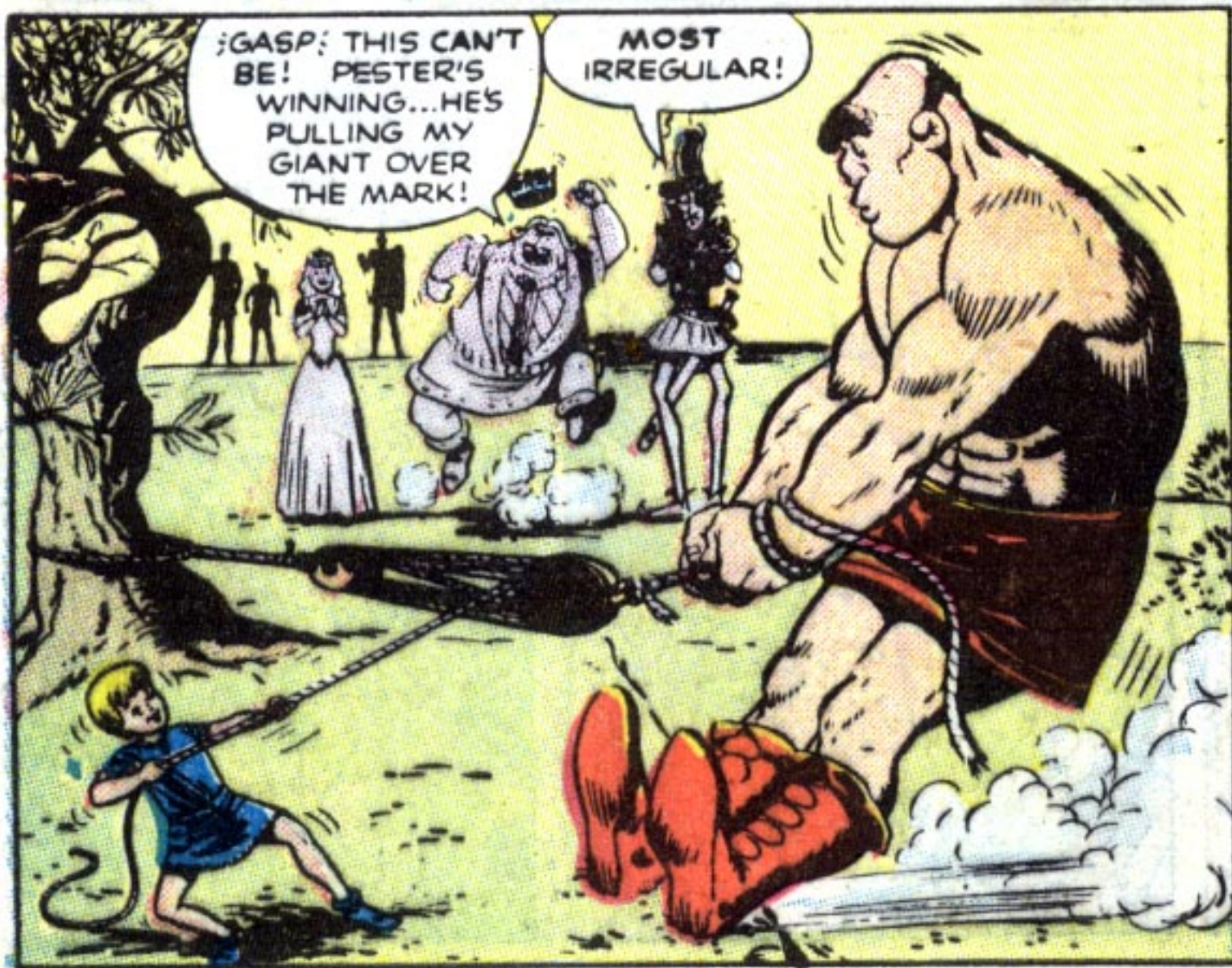
I'M READY, KING ROLLY! I TRUST YOU DON'T MIND IF I USE MY OWN ROPE!

HA! NO EXTRA JUMBLE OF BLOCKS OF WOOD WILL HELP YOU OUT!



!GASP! THIS CAN'T BE! PESTER'S WINNING...HE'S PULLING MY GIANT OVER THE MARK!

MOST IRREGULAR!



NOW MAY I GO FREE?

OF COURSE NOT! NOW YOU MUST BUILD A LADDER, AND CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER! THE STAKES ARE THE SAME!





HE THINKS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD A LADDER THAT HIGH! I'D LIKE TO SHOW HIM!

I WILL PROVIDE EVERYTHING YOU NEED, BOY! GUARDS, BRING ROPE!

I'LL NEED SOME ROPE SIR! MAY I GO GET IT?



NOW I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE SERVICES OF YOUR BEST JAVELIN THROWER!

WHY, GLADLY! BUT THAT RIDICULOUS PILE OF ROPE WON'T HELP YOU!

CAPTAIN CHESTLY IS OUR BEST JAVELIN MAN! BRING HIM!



WHAT HO? ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME, BOY?

THAT'S IT! THROW IT RIGHT OVER THE TOP!



THAT IS A ROPE LADDER!

ROPE LADDER? BAH! GUARDS, TEAR IT DOWN!



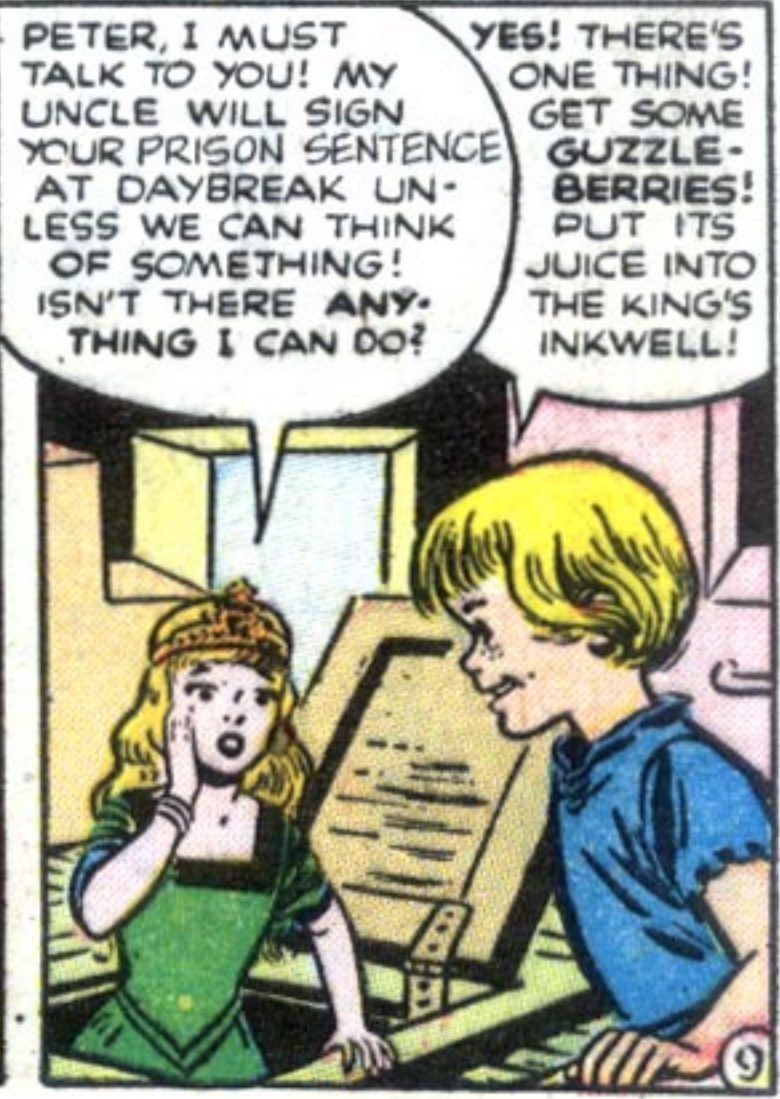
THAT'S NOT FAIR! YOU SAID THIS WAS THE LAST THING I'D HAVE TO DO!

I'M SURE IT WAS THE LAST, BOY! FOR NOW YOU MUST FIND A WAY TO KEEP FROM BEING KEPT IN THE DUNGEON



THE KING HAS GRANTED ME PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO THE PRISONER!

CERTAINLY, PRINCESS! CALL US IF HE TRIES TO HARM YOU!



PETER, I MUST TALK TO YOU! MY UNCLE WILL SIGN YOUR PRISON SENTENCE AT DAYBREAK UNLESS WE CAN THINK OF SOMETHING! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

YES! THERE'S ONE THING! GET SOME GUZZLE-BERRIES! PUT ITS JUICE INTO THE KING'S INKWELL!



EVERYTHING IS READY, YOUR HIGHNESS! AS SOON AS YOU SIGN THE WARRANT, PETER WILL BE PUT IN PRISON!

AH, VERY GOOD, WEEVIL! GIVE IT TO ME!

I HOPE PETER KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE GUZZLE-BERRIES!

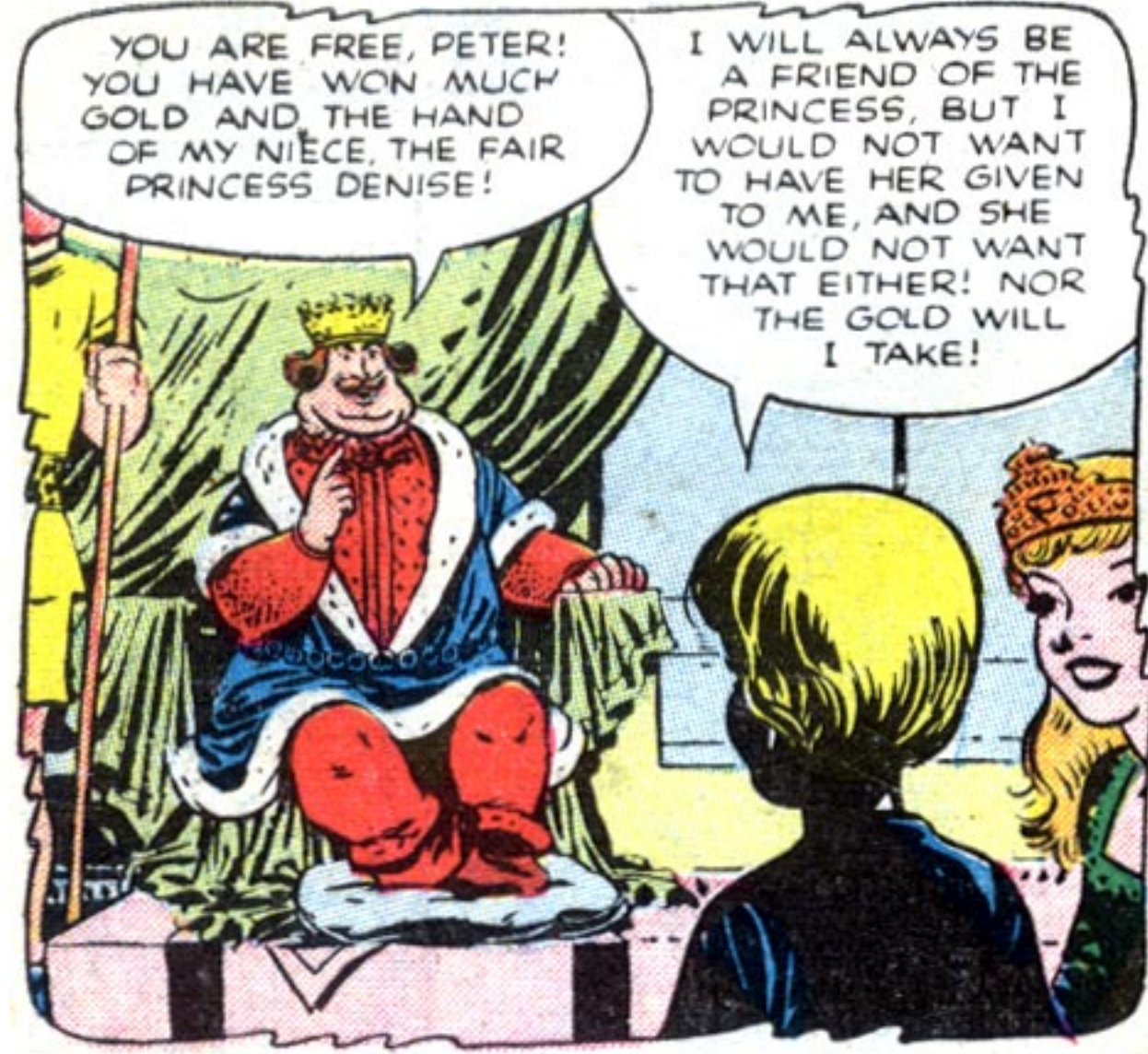


ZOUNDS! IS THIS A JOKE? A PIECE OF BLUE PARCHMENT! GET ME A WARRANT WITH THE KING'S SIGNATURE ON IT, OR I CAN NOT PUT HIM IN PRISON

THE INK SPREADS LIKE MAGIC! I'LL GET ANOTHER!



I FEAR THERE IS A GREATER POWER THAN YOU GUIDING PETER'S DESTINY!
YOU ARE RIGHT, DENISE! THIS IS THE FOURTH ONE I'VE SIGNED! BRING THE BOY HERE!



YOU ARE FREE, PETER! YOU HAVE WON MUCH GOLD AND THE HAND OF MY NIECE, THE FAIR PRINCESS DENISE!

I WILL ALWAYS BE A FRIEND OF THE PRINCESS, BUT I WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE HER GIVEN TO ME, AND SHE WOULD NOT WANT THAT EITHER! NOR THE GOLD WILL I TAKE!



YOU ARE A FINE BOY, PETER, BUT I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING! I HAVE IT! BRING HIS MASTER PRETZELBENDER HERE! BY THE WAY, PETER, WHAT DEVILS POSSESSED MY INK?

IT WAS GUZZLE-BERRY JUICE!

PETER, I SHALL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIEND, TOO!



THERE YOU ARE, PETER! IT'S YOURS! I WANT YOU TO BE THE ROYAL BAKER EVEN IF I DIDN'T LIKE YOUR; HRUMFF! NOTE! THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT CAKE YOU BAKED!

I ACCEPT, YOUR MAJESTY... AND THANK YOU!

OH, PETER! HOW WONDERFUL!

ROYAL BAKERY
Peter Pester, prop.



...AND WHEN YOU FINISH THE FLOOR, MR. PRETZELBENDER, WASH THE WINDOWS!

HE MEANS HE'S HAPPY!

I DO JOYOUS THINGS. I FEEL GOOD. I DO JOKING THINGS. I AM NOT SAD. I DON'T WORRY. I AM GAY. I AM LAUGHING.

THE END

FACTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR, WHENEVER A QUESTION OF HONOR WAS TO BE DECIDED BY COMBAT, THE RULES WERE LAID DOWN HARD AND FAST. IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THAT ONLY ONE PARTY WOULD SURVIVE THE ORDEAL, EACH KNIGHT WAS GIVEN A CHOICE OF ANY **THREE WEAPONS** WITH WHICH TO DO BATTLE!



THE BADLY TREATED SERFS THAT TOILED THE LANDS FOR THEIR KING, HAD ALSO ANOTHER BURDEN ADDED TO THEIR SHOULDERS. IN CASE OF WAR, THEY WERE OBLIGED BY LAW TO SERVE AS SOLDIERS FOR **THREE WEEKS!**



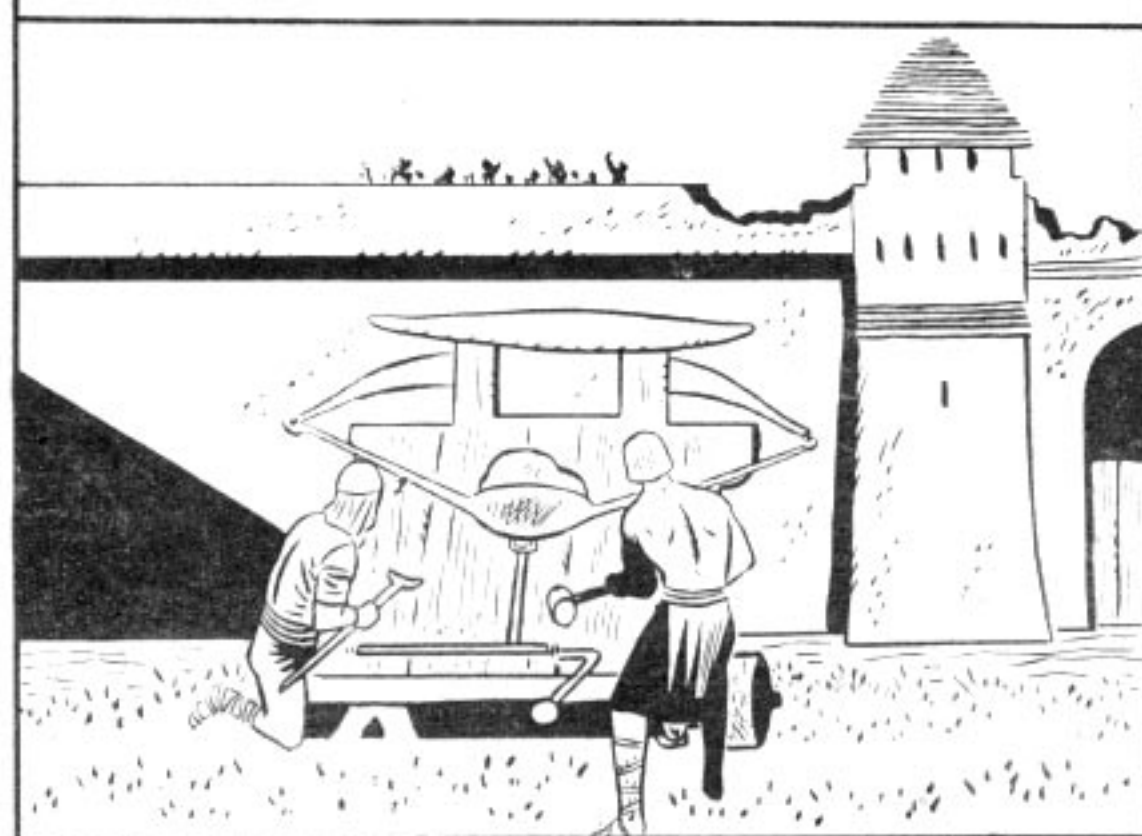
WHEN AN ENEMY STORMED A CASTLE AND HAD ITS FORCES BEATEN BACK, ANOTHER PLAN WAS PUT INTO ACTION. BEHIND A SHIELD OF WET HIDES AND LOGS, A HIGH TOWER WAS BUILT OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS SO THAT THE ENEMY COULD **OVERTOP** THE CASTLE, AND FIRE ITS ARROWS INTO IT.



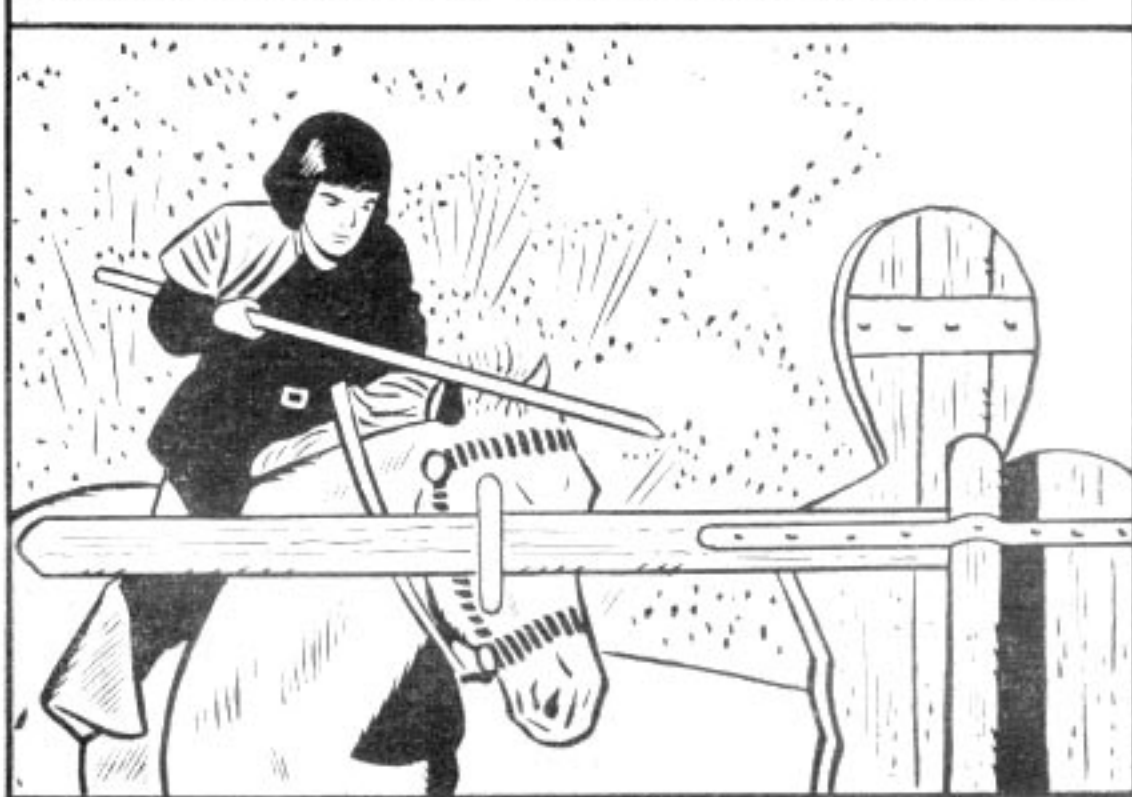
IF, DURING A BATTLE, THE MAIN GATE OF A CASTLE WAS BADLY BATTERED AND ABOUT TO FALL, MANY A CASTLE RULER WOULD **SEAL UP** THE ENTRANCE AGAINST HIS ENEMY FROM **THE INSIDE.**



ONE OF THE WAR ENGINES USED IN THE DAYS OF KNIGHTHOOD WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OVER-SIZED SLING SHOT, BUT ITS EFFECT UPON THE CASTLE WALLS WAS A TELLING ONE. FOR THIS WEAPON OF WAR WAS ABLE TO HURL ROCKS THAT WEIGHED **SIXTY POUNDS** OR MORE.



THE TRAINING FOR KNIGHTHOOD WAS A HARD AND RUGGED ONE. THREE AFTERNOONS A WEEK WERE SPENT ON THE JOUSTING FIELD, WHERE THE "WOULD-BE-KNIGHTS" WOULD MAKE THEIR RUNS AT THE "SARACEN." IF THE "SARACEN" WERE HIT SQUARELY, IT WOULD FALL BACKWARD. IF NOT, IT WOULD FLIP AROUND AND UNSEAT THE RIDER... BUT **HARD!**



MYRON
FASS

